COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 11.

BAHAMAS.

LIBRARY NAVY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 95, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1891.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
88 and 90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1891.

[C.—6269.–10.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
78	Ceylon	1888
79	Fiji	"
80	Lagos	"
81	Victoria	"
82	Leeward Islands	"
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	"
91	Grenada	"
92	Bermuda	"
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	"
96	St. Lucia	"
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	"
100	Straits Settlements	"
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	"
106	British Guiana	"
107	Barbados	"
108	Trinidad and Tobago	"
109	Western Australia	"
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	"
113	Falkland Islands	"
114	Basutoland	1889–90
115	Sierra Leone	1889
116	Fiji	"
117	Hong Kong	"
118	St. Helena	"

NEW SERIES OF COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

1	British Honduras	1889
2	Mauritius	"
3	British Bechuanaland	1889–90
4	Victoria	1889
5	Newfoundland	"
6	British New Guinea	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	"
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890

No. 11.

BAHAMAS.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 95, Old Series.]

Sir AMBROSE SHEA to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Nassau, N.P.,
April 21, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1890. A marked improvement in the business of the Colony is shown in the returns of the year, from an increase in the value of the ordinary productions and from the expenditure on account of the fibre cultivation.

2. The imports show an increase of 38 per cent. and the exports about 35 per cent. over the figures of the previous year. It is satisfactory to note that in the food article of flour, the increased import is 25 per cent, showing the improved means of the people and the tendency to adopt a better standard of living, which is but the beginning of a change in their habits of life that should lead to greater energy in their industrial pursuits.

3. The imports from the United Kingdom are 25 per cent. in advance of the year 1889. The imports aggregate 222,512*l.*, and the exports (168,121*l.*). Of which latter 23,559*l.* were goods of foreign production, leaving the *bonâ fide* export of local products 144,562*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue for the year was 54,826*l.*, and the expenditure 48,688*l.*

Crown Lands.

5. The revenue from Crown lands for the year, including balance, of which payment is assured, was 2,460*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* and the expenditure 2,136*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* A considerable amount was spent on account of surveys which remained neglected in years gone by. It is most important that these should now be accurately determined, to prevent conflicts as to boundaries which are sure to arise under the stimulus now being given to the value of land. A large number of applications for land have been made, many being in abeyance from the failure of the parties, so far, to comply with the conditions of purchase.

o 67310. Wt. 18975.

BAHAMAS.

Salt Pond Account.

6.—(*a.*) This account presents no features for special remark. The fund is charged with expenses that do not all legitimately apply to it, but this has been the case for some years past. The amount at credit is 1,522*l.* 14*s.*

(*b.*) The salt business during the past year shows some improvement, but the drawback to its activity lies in the prohibitory duty in the United States. If closer trade relations should be established with the Dominion of Canada, which may be reasonably hoped for, salt will probably become an article of substantial export to that country.

Widows and Orphans' Fund.

7. The receipts on this account for the year were 334*l.*, and the expenditure 2,533*l.* It is in view to restore the Act repealed some years ago and place this important question on a sound basis for future operations. Meanwhile the general revenue must respond to the claims under the former Act, and thus the demands from widows and orphans entail a growing burthen on the general revenue, from which, practically, it can only be relieved by new legislation.

Post Office Savings Bank.

8. The amount of deposits for the year was 2,469*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* and withdrawals 2,015*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* The interest paid was 128*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, and the receipts of interest 215*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* No charge is made for management while the institution is yet so small in its operations, but it is now placed on a sound legitimate footing and future figures will probably exhibit a marked improvement. The amount of invested funds in the hands of the Crown Agents, is 6,424*l.* 18*s.* and the whole sum of deposits 6,768*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*

Joint Stock Bank of Nassau.

9. This bank gives good earnest of being a marked success. It has been but 18 months in existence, and such has been its progress that the last year's dividend was 10 per cent. The value of this institution to the trade and general interests it is difficult to estimate, and it cannot fail to have an important bearing on the progress of the Colony.

Public Debt.

10. The funded debt has been reduced by the sinking fund to the extent of 1,700*l.*, and now stands at 81,426*l.*, there being 33,300*l.* invested in England at 4½ per cent., and 48,126*l.* in the Colony at 4 per cent.

Legislation.

11. There were 30 Acts passed during the year's session, from one of which, to raise a loan for the erection of a custom house, the Royal Assent has been withheld pending a provision being made for a sinking fund for the liquidation of the debt, the other Acts do not appear to call for special comment.

Population.

12. The population is estimated at 49,500, but the census to be taken in April will definitely fix the number. There were during the year 1,871 births and 889 deaths, the latter showing a rate of 20·42.

Education.

13. There are 38 Government schools. In these schools the number of pupils on the rolls is 5,352 and the average attendance is 3,495. The amount expended was 2,671*l.*, no fees being paid. In addition to the above there are 10 aided schools with 869 pupils on the rolls and 465 average attendance. The contribution of the Government to these schools is 143*l.* 10*s.* The Church of England have 30 schools unassisted, with a roll of 1,471 pupils. Besides these there are 35 private schools with 923 pupils on the rolls. The want of good school buildings is much felt, such structures would tend to make education more attractive, and, with improving means, the Government intend to effect something in this direction in the early future.

Agriculture.

14. Apart from the fibre cultivation agriculture is confined chiefly to pine-apples. The people raise maize and sweet potatoes for their own use, and their maintenance is much assisted by these crops. Cotton shows an increase, being 1,593*l.* in value compared with 1,074*l.* in 1889. There is no reason why this business should not be extensively prosecuted, as most of the islands are well adapted for its cultivation. It is hoped that the presence of strangers now coming in to pursue the fibre industry will act on cotton productions, to the advantages of which their attention cannot fail to be directed. It is quite possible that, in time, cotton may be found only second to the fibre in the category of exports from the Colony. The pine-apple crop realised 49,795*l.*, as compared with 25,558*l.* in 1889. Of canned pine-apples there were exported 26,789 cases, valued at 6,126*l.*, and in 1889 the export was 21,683 cases, with a value of 4,500*l.* In oranges there was an export of 3,961*l.*, the output of 1889 having been 3,040*l.* Careless culture and a reckless mode of shipping, very often in bulk in vessels' holds, must militate against the success of the orange growers. There are advantages for the cultivation

BAHAMAS.

of oranges in these islands not known in Florida, as we are proof against frost, which often visits that country. This branch of employment may also be favourably affected when men of enterprise from outside, appreciating the opportunity, use it with energy and the application of well-ordered methods of packing and shipping.

Sponge Fishery.

15. There is an increase in the returns of the sponge fishery in 1890 realising 63,099*l.*, as against 51,886*l.* in 1889; this is the largest amount realised in the sponge fishery for many years.

Salt.

16. There is an increase in the small export of salt from 1,279*l.* in 1889, to 2,479*l.* in the past year.

Fibre Cultivation.

17.—(*a.*) Steady progress continues to be made in this industry, with increasing faith in its value and permanence. A report of the cultivation to the present time has been prepared by order of the Government, which, though strictly accurate, would not convey true impressions to those at a distance.

(*b.*) The report speaks of 4,100 acres being already planted with 2,500,000 of plants, but it states that there are also 1,300,000 plants in nurseries, which, being in course of growth, adds 50 per cent. to the active cultivation, making an aggregate of over 6,000 acres. Plants are now kept much longer in nurseries to lessen the cost of weeding, which is an expensive operation, and annually attended to after the plants are set out in the fields.

(*c.*) There has been some question as to the time to bring the plantings to maturity, but four years is now the accepted period, while plants retained in the nurseries, as above stated, will mature in three years. There is but little to add to former reports on this enterprise, which has passed out of the experimental stage and will not probably present any new features of inaterest until exports of fibre begin, which will be, on a moderate sc le, in 1892, then developing annually into proportions of increasing importance.

(*d.*) The value of the fibre, like that of other products, will, of course, be subject to market conditions from time to time, but, in the natural order of things, it will ever be the main export and, regarding all the surrounding circumstances, it is difficult to see how it can fail to pay present investors handsomely and to be, to them, a source of income less liable to fluctuations than is the case with most commercial adventures. The time is now approaching when the machines for separating the fibre from the leaf will acquire practical importance; of those now in use none seem to meet all the requirements. Some of them clean the fibre well; but the process is wasteful, and the correction of this defect is the object to be accomplished. With so great an interest at stake we

must suppose inventive genius will be found equal to the occasion Professor Edison has directed his attention to the matter of decortication and he hopes he has found an effective method which avoids waste. The treatment is by a solution of crude petroleum, and this Government are now in communication with the Professor. If the results meet our requirements, a most important end will be attained, which will have the further advantage of enabling small cultivators to dress their own leaves instead of being compelled to sell them at a loss to a large neighbouring planter, who is able to procure a machine.

(*e.*) The process being enterprised by Professor Edison embraces other and most valuable interests in this Colony. Many thousands of tons of pine-apple leaves are now annually left to waste. The fibre commands a high price, from 60*l.* to 80*l.* a ton, for use in fine textiles. The small quantity now produced comes from China, where it is roughly and expensively prepared for want of a machine sufficiently delicate to extract the tender fibre without injury. The proposed mode would seem to meet this difficulty, as all strain or friction is avoided, and the result of pending inquiries is looked for with great interest. The immediate effect of successful experiment would be to turn a wasted product into an article of much value, adding substantially to the returns of pine-apple cultivation and this process may be applied to the growing crop. It is understood that the same solution may be used many times, and, if present hopes are realised, the petroleum will be admitted free of the duty now imposed.

Shipping Returns.

11. The following tables present an abstract of the shipping returns for 1890:—

Sailing Ships Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	214	13,944	1,296
In ballast -	33	3,855	223
Tota. - -	247	17,799	1,519

Sailing Ships Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	99	9,912	576
In ballast . - -	61	6,352	370
Total -	160	16,264	946

BAHAMAS.

Sailing Ships Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	156	13,112	1,128
In ballast - - -	70	2,660	349
Total - -	226	15,772	1,477

Sailing Ships Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	149	13,580	894
In ballast - - -	20	1,960	122
Total - -	169	15,540	1,016

Steam Ships Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	4	4,190	118
In ballast - -	—	—	—
Total - -	4	4,190	118

Steam Ships Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	86	96,120	3,726
In ballast - - -	2	3,260	125
Total - -	88	99,380	3,851

Steam Ships Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	4	4,190	118
In ballast - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	4	4,190	118

Steam Ships Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	79	86,191	3,381
In ballast - - -	7	11,548	417
Total - -	86	97,739	3,798

Compared with 1889 these returns show an increase in both sailing and steam tonnage.

Criminal Statistics.

19. There were 2,568 persons brought before the magistrates' courts in 1890, of whom 329 were discharged for want of prosecution or want of evidence, 622 were cases dismissed on their merits, 1,569 were summarily convicted, and 48 were committed for trial in the superior courts, where judgment for the Crown was given in 30 cases.

Prison.

20. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1890 was 311, being 165 men, 104 women, and 42 juveniles; of these, 81, 71, and 17 respectively had been previously convicted. The average daily number of prisoners was 52·77, slightly in excess of the previous year.

The cost of the prison for the year was 1,360*l.*, which does not include the salaries of the keeper and chaplain provided for out of the general revenue. The value of the prisoners' labour on the public works, roads, &c., during the year was estimated at 620*l.*, but no money is received for this.

Hospital and Insane Asylum.

21.—(*a.*) The daily average of patients in hospital for 1890 was 76. There were 69 patients remaining at the end of 1889, and

BAHAMAS.

250 were admitted during the year. 97 patients were discharged as cured, 81 as relieved, and 12 not relieved. There were 47 deaths.

(*b.*) The proposed Victoria Hospital is found to involve a considerably larger outlay than had been provided, and the Government were unwilling to proceed without further reference to the Legislature. The subject will therefore be submitted in the present session, and it is hoped no further delay will be incurred in the prosecution of this urgently required undertaking.

(*c.*) There were 11 lunatics admitted into the asylum in 1890; five were discharged cured, three relieved, and four deaths occurred. The average daily number in the asylum was 26, or 17 males and 9 females.

Meteorological Observations.

22. The rainfall for the year was 44·57 inches, which is somewhat below the average. Easterly winds prevailed for 261 days, and this may possibly account to some extent for the want of rain, as they are dry here.

The mean air temperature at 9 o'clock a.m. and 3 o'clock p.m. ranged from 84°·5 Fahr. and 85°·6 Fahr. in July to 73°·6 Fahr. and 74°·8 Fahr. in March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SHEA,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 44.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1891.

(For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 11.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1892.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1892.

[C.—6563.–28.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
8	Bermuda	1890
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	"
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
13	Gibraltar	"
14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"
19	British Honduras	"
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	"
23	Grenada	"
24	Straits Settlements	"
25	British Guiana	"
26	St. Helena	"
27	Mauritius	"
28	Gambia	"
29	Hong Kong	"
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	"
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	"
34	Newfoundland	"
35	Jamaica	1889–91
36	Victoria	1890
37	British New Guinea	1890–91
38	St. Vincent	1891
39	Bermuda	"
40	Seychelles and Rodrigues	1889 and 1890
41	Gambia	1891
42	Barbados	"
43	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

84321

No. 44.

BAHAMAS.

[For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 11.]

Sir AMBROSE SHEA to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Nassau, N.P.,
April 25, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1891.

The imports and exports show a decline on those of the previous year. The lessened value of imports was caused by the entry of a large amount of damaged goods from the wreck of the American steamer "El Dorado," in August last, which were sold at from one-fourth to one-third of their cost.

The decline in exports was in fruit and sponges, neither having realised the amount of the year 1890. These facts, indicating the precarious nature of the normal industries, testify to the great and necessary security that will be given to the well-being of the people by the fibre enterprise, now on the threshold of its productive stage. The Colony will not be free from the risk of disappointment, in its annual productions, until the new staple pursuit becomes a distinct feature in the industrial economy. Fortunately this issue is now fast approaching and the lessening dependence of the Colony on its fruit and sponge interests will soon relieve it from the cause of the old sense of insecurity and misgiving.

Revenue.

2. The revenue for the year was 52,813*l.* This is really 200*l.* more than that of the former year, which was unduly increased by a balance brought from 1890 for the purpose of adjusting the account. The revenue, however, was 2,000*l.* below the estimated amount, owing to the loss on the large import of damaged goods above referred to.

Crown Lands.

3. The revenue from Crown lands for 1891 was 1,590*l.*, being 870*l.* less than in 1890. The sales were considerably below those

BAHAMAS.

of the previous year. No part of the principal of the large allotments has been paid, the amount of which is nearly 20,000*l.* and upon which an annual rent is being received. The amount held by the Crown Agents at interest is 2,394*l.*, and by the Receiver General 1,500*l.*, which sums, amounting to 3,894*l.*, are held applicable to the out-island steam service by authority of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Salt Pond Account.

4. This fund is gradually decreasing, the amount being 1,444*l.* on the 31st of December 1891, as against 1,522*l.* at the end of the former year. The trade has almost ceased to exist nor does there seem to be any chance of its revival while the protective duties on salt in the United States continue.

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

5. This fund was in debt to the Colony, on the 31st of December, 5,517*l.* The receipts were 316*l.* and the payments 2,523*l.*, showing a loss on the year of 2,207*l.*, which will be an increasing charge on the revenue. It is most unfortunate that the Act was repealed, leaving such a burthen of obligations. If the law was inaccurately framed, as is alleged, an amendment, and not a repeal, would have been the course to adopt. Though it will not relieve the present situation, another Widows' and Orphans' Act is contemplated, and will no doubt be dealt with when the fuller information is obtained which is now being sought for.

Post Office Savings Bank.

6. The amount of investments on this account in the hands of the Crown Agents is 6,628*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, for which 6,652*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* was paid. The whole sum at the credit of the account is 6,696*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, of which 44*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* is in the Bank of Nassau. The amount due to depositors is 7,255*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, being an excess of liabilities over assets of 559*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, which deficiency is a part of the defalcation of the late Postmaster Clare. The excess of liabilities is, however, being gradually lessened, having been reduced since December, 1889, by the sum of 166*l.* As the institution is now being worked the adverse balance will be liquidated within the next three years. Under the amended Act of 1888 the Bank is restored to the legitimate position of a self-sustaining institution. Its operations, however, are materially affected by the facilities afforded by the Joint Stock Bank of Nassau.

Joint Stock Bank of Nassau.

7. This bank is being worked with great success and signal advantage to the Colony. The net profits of the year were equal

to 27 per cent., of which 10 per cent. was divided and 17 per cent. carried to the reserve.

Public Debt.

8. The funded debt has been reduced by the sinking fund to the extent of 300*l.* and now stands at 81,126*l.*, there being 33,000*l.* invested in England at 4½ per cent., and 48,126*l.* in the Colony at 4 per cent.

Legislation.

9. There were 23 Acts passed during the two Sessions of 1891. The most prominent are the Act for the Creation of a new Constabulary Force, to replace the detachment of the West India Regiment that has since been withdrawn, and the Act for the Establishment of Telegraph Cable Communication with Florida. This latter was repealed in the special Session held in October, and a new Act passed, under which the Government assume the work on their own account, and an authority was given to raise 30,000*l.* on loan, for the purchase of the cable, which has since been laid and is now being successfully worked.

Population.

10. The census taken in April 1891 fixed the population at 47,565, this being an increase of 4,044 on the census of 1881. There were, during the year, 1,900 births, and 1,052 deaths, the latter showing a rate of 22·1.

Education.

11. There are 38 Government schools, in which the number of pupils on the rolls is 5,153, and the average attendance is 3,121 The amount expended was 2,815*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, no fees being paid. There are also 10 aided schools, with 857 pupils on the rolls and an average attendance of 461 : the contribution of the Government to these schools was 139*l.* 5*s.* The Church of England have 34 schools unassisted, with a roll of 1,500 pupils ; and there are 33 private schools with a roll of 1,254 pupils.

Agriculture.

12. There was a decline in the value of the pine-apple crop compared with 1890. In the latter year, the export was 49,795*l.*, and 45,966*l.* in 1891. In canned pine-apples, there was also a falling off from 6,126*l.* in 1890, to 3,793*l.* in 1891. Oranges, also, show a decline, from 3,961*l.* in 1890, to 2,253*l.* in the past year.

Sponge Fishery.

13. In this branch of industry a decline is shown from 63,090*l.* in 1890, to 49,696*l.* in 1891.

Salt.

14. Here also the export was less than in 1890, when 2,479*l.* was the value, as against 1,705*l.* in 1891.

Fibre Cultivation.

15. Fibre cultivation makes very satisfactory progress, and there are now about 8,000 acres planted out. At least 6,000 acres will be added to this area in 1892. A larger addition would be made but that the supply of plants of the requisite growth is yet limited. It is now ascertained that it is not advisable to transplant from the nurseries until they are at least one year old, and have attained to a length of 12 or 15 inches. The nurseries, however, are in full operation, and I believe that after the present year the supply of plants will be equal to any supposable demand. The adoption of the limit which restricts Crown allotments for 10 years to 100,000 acres, assures present investors against risk of over-production in the near future at least. The export from early plantings has now begun, and will be about 150 to 200 tons in 1892, and this will thereafter be an increasing quantity, but a careful estimate shows that it will not reach beyond 14,000 to 15,000 tons up to the year 1900. The subsequent advance will be much more rapid, but in no reasonable view of the circumstances can the export from the Colony have a marked effect on the market for many years to come. It is now ascertained that, with plants of fair growth, 4 years is the longest time for the maturing of the plant, and it then yields an annual crop, without further care, for 12 or 14 years. I do not approve of forcing the crop, and immature cuttings are to be specially deprecated. The fibre is at its best after due time has been given for its growth, and unwise methods will be carefully dealt with by the Government in the highest interests of the Colony. There is much yet to be learned in connexion with this enterprise, but it is satisfactory to know that, with our present imperfect knowledge, no serious mistakes have been fallen into. Experience will no doubt lead to a lessened expense of cultivation, especially in the matter of weeding that has hitherto been a large item, but in which it now appears a reduction may be made. The highly important question of labour is well guarded, and the whole quantity of one hundred thousand acres may be brought into cultivation without strain on our present resources. The plant, being confessedly the best of any known growth, a demand from abroad has set in, and, though there are well considered doubts of its successful growth in some places where an attempt to cultivate

the plant is being made, there seems no reason why any amount of competitive industry should be encouraged, and for this and other reasons the Act passed three years ago, to prohibit the export of plants, has now been extended for five years more. The available supply at present is not more than is required for the operations in the Colony, which would be hampered by outside demand, and the progress of the Colony be consequently retarded. It would be difficult to assign a limit to the future advance of the Colony from the growth of this remarkable industry. Though the land provisionally assigned to fibre cultivation (one hundred thousand acres) will in time yield 50,000 tons there seems no reason why even this great result should bar the extension of the area of production, if the markets of the time shall admit of its profitable disposal. It is generally thought that, from the excellence of the fibre, it will find its way into other fields for its use besides rope-making, and recent experiments prove that it takes a dye readily, indicating its adaptability to certain fabrics, and to some extension of demand on this account. There is the further ground for the probably strong place for Bahamas hemp in the future, that it can be produced more cheaply than any known fibre of equal value, and it may be inferred that it will hold its own at least against the influence of any probable competition with which it may have to contend.

Fruit Cultivation.

16. The Colony offers great inducements for fruit-growing. Pine-apples are at present the principal crop, but the particular description of land required for their culture is a limited quantity. Of late years the growth has been much improved by the use of fertilizers, with a considerable increase of quantity. The crop yields large profits. At twopence each an acre of pine-apples returns 40*l.* to 45*l.*, and, though precarious, from its perishable nature, while such results are possible it will continue to be an attractive pursuit. I do not desire to see it extended, as the sole means of the cultivators, beyond its present limits, for the increasing competition of Cuba and Jamaica is a further element of insecurity in the future of this industry. In oranges a good business might be done, if the accounts of Florida enterprise in this fruit are a fair criterion. At present the oranges of this country are roughly handled, being generally shipped in bulk in vessels' holds, and often without compartments. The fruit is equal to any in the world, and when, for the most part, it receives no attention, the result of careful cultivation could not fail to be remunerative. The facilities for production are fully up to those in Florida, and we are entirely free from all risk of frost, which so often blights the Florida crop. The success of the industry in this Colony would be partial, however, until the proper system of packing were adopted to ensure delivery at market in good con-

BAHAMAS.

dition—with this point secured, and the advantage of steam communication, which is fast becoming available, orange-growing should be a profitable source of employment. Tomatoes are grown to a moderate extent, but the production might be largely increased, and when more intelligent enterprise from abroad, of which the prospect is now encouraging, is brought to bear on the various opportunities for steady money-making in the Colony, its history will become distinguished for more than the transformation its famous fibre is effecting. It is to be regretted that of the many young Englishmen who embarked in orange-growing in Florida, with chequered results, and of those also who sought their fortunes in South America, some at least had not found their way to this Colony, where energy and thrift, applied to the varied resources, can hardly fail to reward well-directed effort, and where personal rights and property are under the protection of British Laws and Administration—a consideration to which the history of the southern republics during the past two or three years has given striking significance.

Shipping Returns.

17. The following tables present an abstract of the shipping returns for 1891:—

Sailing Ships Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	171	11,471	1,196
In ballast - - -	32	2,461	196
Total - -	203	13,932	1,392

Sailing Ships Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	85	6,047	449
In ballast - - -	82	7,948	467
Total - - -	167	13,995	916

Sailing Ships Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	137	10,036	897
In ballast - - -	59	2,779	369
Total - -	196	12,815	1,266

Sailing Ships Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	143	11,620	855
In ballast - - -	17	1,262	93
Total - -	160	12,882	948

Steam Ships Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	15	16,918	384
In ballast - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	15	16,918	384

Steam Ships Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	87	109,743	3,889
In ballast - - -	4	660	57
Total - -	91	110,403	3,946

BAH. 1891.

Steam Ships Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	13	15,653	362
In ballast - - -	1	1,053	22
Total - -	14	16,706	384

Steam Ships Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	83	105,236	3,702
In ballast - - -	3	234	27
Total - -	86	105,470	3,729

These returns, compared with those of 1890, show a decrease in sailing tonnage of 11,751 tons, and an increase in steam tonnage of 43,998 tons. This is the natural result of the additional steam service between New York and this port, which came into operation during the past year.

Criminal Statistics.

18. There were during the past year 2,367 persons brought before the magistrates' courts, of whom 274 were discharged for want of prosecution or want of evidence, 733 were cases dismissed on their merits, 13,033 were summarily convicted, 25 were committed for trial in the superior court, where judgment for the Crown was given in 20 cases.

Prison.

19. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1891 was 264, being 141 men, 93 women, and 30 juveniles. Of these, 64, 68, and 13 respectively had been previously convicted. The average daily number of prisoners was 42·73, as against 52·77 in the previous year.

Hospital and Insane Asylum.

20.—(*a.*) The daily average of patients in hospital for 1891 was 78. There were 84 patients remaining at the end of 1890, and

225 patients were admitted during the year. 92 patients were discharged as cured, 49 as relieved, and 14 not relieved. There were 75 deaths.

(*b.*) The building of the new hospital has not been proceeded with pending the decision of the War Office authorities as to the disposal of the military hospital.

(*c.*) There were 15 lunatics admitted into the asylum in 1891; seven were discharged cured, two relieved, and one not improved; five deaths occurred. The average daily number in the asylum was 26, or 16 males and 10 females.

Meteorological Observations.

21. The rainfall for the year was 53·25 inches. Easterly winds prevailed for 88½ days. The mean air temperature at 9 o'clock a.m. and 3 o'clock p.m. ranged from 75·6 Fahr. and 77·7 Fahr. in March to 85·4 Fahr. and 86· Fahr. in July.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SHEA,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

767

No. 76.

BAHAMAS.

[For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 44.]

Sir A. SHEA to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Nassau, N.P.,
May 8, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1892.

Imports and Exports.

2. The imports and exports both show an increase on the previous year of 6,731*l.* in imports, and of 17,126*l.* in exports. Both the sponge and fruit export were greater than in 1891, but I adhere to my often expressed opinion of the uncertainty of the fruit industry, from the various contingencies to which it is exposed in its growth, in the transport to market, and the growing competition of Cuba and Jamaica. This view is impressing itself on the minds of the people, and there is an increasing desire to engage in the fibre cultivation which they see has so many encouraging conditions. Still, while I urge on them the hazard of dealing with fruit as their sole dependence, I do not, by any means, wish that they should abandon its cultivation.

Revenue.

3. The revenue for the year was 56,704*l.*, being 3,890*l.* over that of the previous year. I see no reason to doubt that the revenue of the Colony will continue to show a steady advance, especially in and after the year 1895, when the fibre export will be the leading feature in the returns.

Crown Lands.

3. The revenue from Crown lands was 1,171*l.*, being 419*l.* less than in 1891. The actual sales have been small, the privilege of obtaining land at a rental being generally availed of by large purchasers. The whole amount for land disposed of in the past four years, cash payments and capitalised value, is 27,436*l.* The amount held by the Crown Agents at interest is 1,594*l.*, 10*s.* 11*d.* and 1,500*l.* is in the hands of the Receiver-General in Bahamas Debentures.

Salt Pond Fund.

5. This fund shows a steady decline. There are some fixed charges on it, and the revenue has gone down to a very small point. Nothing better is to be expected while prohibitory duties on salt are maintained in the United States. The amount on the 31st of December was 1,344*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* as against 1,444*l.* at the credit of the fund at the end of the previous year.

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

6. This fund was in debt to the Colony, 7,949*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* on the 31st of December 1892. The debt is fast increasing and without a prospect of arresting it. It seems idle to continue charging interest on this account and the law requiring it should be repealed. The amount disbursed in 1892 was 2,391*l.*5*s.* 6*d.*, and 300*l.* only received. It has not yet been found practicable to establish a fund for the future of this exigency, but in no case could it be made to assist in reducing the obligations contracted under the system that has been allowed to expire.

Post Office Savings Bank.

7. The amount of investments on this account in the hands of the Crown Agents on the 31st December was 7,205*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, which cost 7,188*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The liabilities were 7,642*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, showing an excess of liabilities over assets of 452*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, being a reduction of the deficiency in last year's account of 106*l.* This deficiency is part of the late Postmaster Clare's defalcations, but it will be gradually paid off by the working of the bank.

Joint Stock Bank of Nassau.

8. This bank continues to operate with much success and with benefit to the community. Its nett profits last year were 27 per cent., from which it paid a dividend to stockholders of 10 per cent. and carried 17 per cent. to its reserve.

Public Debt.

9. The funded debt has been reduced by the sum of 600*l.* paid off during the year. It now stands at 80,526*l.* In addition there is the debt for account of the telegraph cable of 30,000*l.*, making in all 110,526*l.* Of this amount, 32,400*l.* were issued by the Crown Agents in England, and the balance, 78,126*l.*, is held in the Colony.

Legislation.

10. Twenty-two Acts were passed in the session of the year 1892. They have all been reported on by the Attorney-General,

and are none of them of any special significance. One Act, 55 Vict. Chap. 13, "To amend the Stamps Act, 1877," was disallowed by Her Majesty's Government.

Population.

11. The census of 1891 gave a population of 47,565. During the year 1892 there were 1,889 births and 1,229 deaths, the latter showing a rate of 27·3.

Sponge Fishery.

12. In this industry there was an increase from 49,696*l.* in 1891 to 65,554*l.* in 1892.

Salt.

13. In this article the export is slightly over that of 1891, being 1,978*l.* as compared with 1,705*l.* in the previous year.

Fibre Cultivation.

14. The area of Crown land acquired for this industry is about 70,000 acres, of which nearly 12,000 acres are already under cultivation in various stages of progress. From the present agencies at work, it can be safely estimated that 5,000 acres per annum will continue to be added to the operations. There need be no special effort to dispose of the balance of the land now ungranted, within the prescribed limit of 100,000 acres: as the increasing experience of the value of the fibre enterprise will assure the sale of the available land in good season. I do not feel that I can add much to what I have stated on this subject in former reports in which the views I expressed are being fully confirmed by experience, and I can confidently assert that none of the investors would, if they could, withdraw from the enterprise, and there is no diminution of the confidence with which it was undertaken. The small shipments that went forward in the past year satisfied every expectation on the score of the excellence of the fibre and its market value, and as shipments increase, and the article becomes more extensively known, there is little doubt that it will establish a stable position in the fibre market. It is now generally conceded that it will enter considerably into the manufacture of various fabrics, and that, for some time to come, but a small portion of the production will be used for rope making. Indeed the prices that have been hitherto paid indicate clearly that other uses have been found for our fibre, for the rates have gone well above the quotations for Manilla. This industry would seem to have become established just in time to meet a change of condition which is menacing the

means of support of the poorer classes of the population. It is now admitted that the droughts are longer than before, in the past two or three years; and the corn, yams, and other crops, on which the labouring people had been accustomed to rely for a large portion of their food, have been, to a great extent, a failure. The impression is forced on them that on fibre cultivation alone can they rely with confidence, and a considerable movement in this direction is consequently observable. To enable these small operators to act with advantage, a good deal must be done to instruct and assist them, and well-ordered co-operative effort will be required to make their undertakings a success. With the large proprietors, the work of progress is defined and unimpeded, and the whole interest is wisely guarded for the future, in the law, now made permanent, by which the export of plants from the Colony is strictly prohibited.

Fruit Cultivation.

15. The export of pine-apples in 1892 amounted to 56,000*l.*, as against 46,000*l.* in 1891. The returns, however, were unsatisfactory and left a loss to exporters. This will probably be felt in the coming season; and the trade has a new element of uncertainty in the apprehended visitation of cholera to the United States.

The competition of Florida, and the want of due care in packing and shipping oranges, militate much against the value that might be realised in this branch of employment; but I still believe that the increase of intelligence and capital, with which the Colony is being favoured, will have a salutary influence in the future on this branch of the available resources of the Colony.

Shipping Returns.

16. The following tables present an abstract of the shipping returns for 1892:—

Sailing Vessels Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	174	10,559	1,129
In ballast - - -	32	2,263	198
Total - -	206	12,822	1,327

Sailing Vessels Entered (Foreign).

——	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	83	7,347	449
In ballast - - -	69	6,207	423
Total - - -	152	13,554	872

Sailing Vessels Cleared (British).

——	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	171	10,409	1,210
In ballast - - -	34	1,435	191
Total - -	205	11,844	1,401

Sailing Vessels Cleared (Foreign).

——	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	138	11,176	811
In ballast - - -	13	1,769	73
Total - -	151	12,945	884

Steam Ships Entered (British).

——	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	27	50,787	777
In ballast - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	27	50,787	777

Steam Ships Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	75	95,221	3,480
In ballast - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	75	95,221	3,480

Steam Ships Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	23	43,310	618
In ballast - - -	2	1,568	61
Total - -	25	44,878	679

Steam Ships Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	75	92,001	3,462
In ballast - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	75	92,001	3,462

These returns show a decrease of 2,459 tons in sailing tonnage, and an increase of 33,390 tons in steam tonnage, as against those of the previous year.

Education.

17. There are 39 Government schools, in which the number of pupils on the rolls is 5,318, and the average attendance is 3,249. The amount expended was 4,800*l.*, no fees being paid. There are also 10 aided schools, with 803 pupils on the rolls, and an average attendance of 425; the contribution of the Government to these schools was 148*l.*

The Church of England have 35 schools unassisted, with a roll of 1,659 pupils, and there are 45 private schools with a roll of 1,559 pupils.

The Training Institute for Teachers, opened in March 1892, and upon which the amount expended was 444*l.*, has a roll of 12

students, and the Nassau Evening School, attached to the Institute, upon which 32*l.* 10*s.* was expended, numbers 47 pupils.

Criminal Statistics.

18. There were, during the year 1892, 2,401 persons brought before the Magistrates' Court, of whom 394 were discharged for want of prosecution or want of evidence, 527 were cases dismissed on their merits, 1,414 were summarily convicted, 66 were committed for trial in the Superior Court, where judgment for the Crown was given in 28 cases.

Prison.

19. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1892 was 242; being 132 men, 92 women, and 18 juveniles; of these, 76, 60, and 6, respectively, had been previously convicted.

The average daily number of prisoners was 49 as against 42 in the previous year.

Hospital and Insane Asylum.

20. The daily average of patients in hospital for 1892 was 79. There were 79 patients remaining at the end of 1891, and 240 patients were admitted during the year. Eighty-nine patients were discharged as cured, 62 as relieved and 6 not improved. There were 87 deaths.

A contract was entered into in 1892 for the building of a new hospital within the area of the present hospital and poor asylum. This building, which will provide ample and spacious accommodation for patients and should meet all probable requirements, will shortly be completed and ready for occupation. This long pending question is, consequently, now satisfactorily disposed of at a much smaller cost than was at first contemplated.

There were 18 lunatics admitted into the asylum in 1892. Four were discharged cured, 6 relieved, and 7 died. The average daily numbers in the asylum were 18 males and 9 females.

Meteorological Observations.

21. The rainfall for 1892 was 37·12 inches, the lowest rainfall for some years. Easterly winds prevailed for 116 days. The mean air temperature at 9 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. ranged from 72·5 Fahr. and 74·3 Fahr. in March to 85·6 Fahr. and 85·7 Fahr. in July.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SHEA,
Governor.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 110.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 76.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1894.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1894.

[C.—7319.–8.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
74	Turks and Caicos Islands	1892
75	Gibraltar	,,
76	Bahamas	,,
77	Leeward Islands	,,
78	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
79	Malta	,,
80	Gambia	,,
81	Straits Settlements	,,
82	Grenada	,,
83	Barbados	,,
84	St. Vincent	,,
85	Hong Kong	,,
86	St. Lucia	,,
87	Falkland Islands	,,
88	Gold Coast	,,
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	,,
92	Mauritius	,,
93	Labuan	,,
94	British Honduras	,,
95	Lagos	,,
96	Sierra Leone	,,
97	Fiji	,,
98	Rodrigues	,,
99	St. Helena	,,
100	British Bechuanaland	1892–93
101	British Guiana	,,
102	Newfoundland	1892
103	Jamaica	1892–93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	,,
107	Hong Kong	,,
108	St. Vincent	,,
109	Gibraltar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 110.

BAHAMAS.

[For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 76.]

Sir A. SHEA to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Nassau, N.P.,
May 17, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1893.

Imports and Exports.

2. The imports for the year 1893 show a decrease of 9,056*l.* and the exports a decrease of 28,115*l.* upon those of the previous year. The exports were the lowest of any within the past ten years and the result must have been disastrous but for the outlay made on the fibre cultivations.

Revenue.

3. The revenue for the year 1893 was 53,225*l.*, being 3,479*l.* under that of 1892. This is fully accounted for by the lessened products in quality and value, the year having been one of the worst on record for those engaged in the normal industries.

Crown Lands.

4. The revenue from Crown lands was 2,433*l.*, being 1,262*l.* more than in 1892.

Salt Pond Fund.

5. The amount at the credit of this fund on the 31st of December 1893 was 1,329*l.* as against 1,344*l.* at the end of the previous year. No substantial improvement can be expected in this account until a reduction is made in the prohibitive duties on salt at present imposed in the United States.

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

6. The amount received upon this account during the year was 266*l.* while the amount expended was 2,390*l.* The loss to the Colony on this account was 7,949*l.* at the end of 1892 and this

was increased to 10,073*l.* on the 31st of December 1893. Under existing conditions this must be a growing deficit, nor does there seem to be any practicable escape from this serious outlook.

Post Office Savings Bank.

7. The amount of investments on this account in the hands of the Crown Agents on the 31st of December 1893 was 7,482*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, which cost 7,439*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, on deposit in the bank of Nassau there was 188*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* and cash in the Post Office 35*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* making a total of assets 7,663*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* The liabilities were 8,002*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, showing an excess of liabilities over assets of 339*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; but this is a reduction of the deficiency in the previous year's account of 113*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* The deficiency in this account is a part of the defalcation of ex-Postmaster Clare and is gradually being paid off.

Joint Stock Bank of Nassau.

8. The bank of Nassau continues its operations, and a dividend of 10 per cent. was paid for the year to the shareholders.

Public Debt.

9. The funded debt has been reduced by the sum of 400*l.* paid off during the year 1893. It now stands at 80,126*l.* which, with the debt for account of the telegraph cable of 30,000*l.*, makes in all 110,126*l.* Of this amount 32,000*l.* was issued by the Crown Agents in England and the balance 78,126*l.* is held in the Colony.

Legislation.

10. Eighteen Acts were passed in the session of the year 1893. They were all reported on by the Attorney-General, and the only one of any special significance was the Act 56 Vict. c. 4, an Act passed for the purpose of making permanent the prohibition of the export of fibrous plants.

Population.

11. The census of 1891 gave a population of 47,565. During the year 1893 there were 1,939 births and 1,181 deaths, the latter showing a rate of 24·8 per thousand as against 27·3 in the previous year.

Sponge Fishery.

12. The export of sponge in 1893 amounted to 58,615*l.* as against 65,554*l.* in 1892, showing a decrease of 6,939*l.* This

falling off was principally due to the boisterous weather which prevailed during a part of the sponging season, making it impracticable for the vessels to leave shelter and thus suspending operations for a considerable time.

Salt.

13. There was an export of 2,068*l.* in salt during 1893, being a slight increase on that of the previous year when the export amounted to 1,978*l.*

Fibre Cultivation.

14. The export of Bahama hemp amounted in 1893 to 1,200*l.* as against 692*l.* in 1892. The area of Crown Land now disposed of is 85,000 acres while about 15,000 acres of private land is also in course of cultivation. The quantity planted at the end of 1893 was 17,000 acres and an annual increase of about 6,000 acres will be the rate of progress. The history of the origin and growth of this industry has so often been written that but little remains to be said in that regard. It will, hereafter, be a record of increasing development and social advancement, which results now appear to be as assured as is possible in the course of human events. As far as the welfare of the Colony is concerned there seems to be the minimum of uncertainty, for it is not conceivable that the value of the fibre can go below the cost of production, though the profit, as in the case of all commercial enterprises, must ever be an uncertain and varying quantity. The export of 1893 was far below the expectations though not from want of an ample supply of the raw material.

The shortcoming was due to several causes. In the first place the most advanced plantation, in which an American Syndicate is interested, was almost entirely neglected owing to the financial troubles in the United States, and the low price of the fibre, consequent in a great degree on the money stringency which lessened the desire to prepare the product for market. The business was also much delayed by disappointment in the matter of the scutching machines, which in many cases proved useless. It is highly satisfactory to know that this difficulty is now over, for a machine manufactured by the Todd Company of New York has been at length found to work admirably, the fibre being cleaned perfectly, at the smallest possible amount of waste. There can be but little doubt that this machine will be universally adopted, as, besides its efficiency, it is cheaply operated, a woman to feed the machine with leaves, another to remove the finished fibre, being all the labour attendant on this process. It has been for some time a subject of much thought as to how the small cultivators were to utilise their labour where, as in the great majority of cases, they were too poor and their plantings too limited to admit of the cost of a machine, A satisfactory solution, however, has now been found which will be a great boon to this

class and will bring the blessings of the industry home to the humblest peasant in the Colony. The process is as simple as it is available to all, and consists of a slit being made in the thick end of the leaf, when it is torn asunder, leaving the inner part exposed, and by then soaking it in salt water, which is never far to reach; in about a week the pulp may be removed by hand and the fibre preserved. No waste whatever is found in this method, and it is understood that a man or woman, or grown boys or girls, may turn out from fifty to sixty pounds of fibre as the result of a day's work. The plan is being adopted throughout the Colony, and what was for some time deemed a missing-link is thus effectively supplied.

15. There has always been a certain amount of speculation as to the effects of hurricanes on the fibre fields, and though the plants are so hardy, the idea was in some degree a disturbing one. The question has now been satisfactorily tested. In August last, as well as in October, the Bahama Islands were visited with hurricanes which did considerable damage to various kinds of property. In one or two cases fibre fields, by unusual rising of the tides, were laid under water, and it was supposed that in these instances much injury had been done to the plants. In all other fields, though exposed to the force of the storm, the plants escaped without any injury and their power of resistance was thus established. But even in the submerged fields, the damage proved, eventually, to be trifling. The leaves were much knocked about, but they finally recovered to a great extent, and they are now being dressed, producing a fibre not much inferior to the best, but classed as No. 2 because of some small spots being discoloured which detracts from the appearance, though not, it is believed, from the strength, of the article.

16. Labour continues in good supply and is not likely to be a cause of difficulty for many years. Railways are being laid down in the principal Estates and this will be found a most profitable investment in saving labour on the carriage of the leaves to the dressing establishment—one hundred pounds of leaf yielding not more than four or five pounds of fibre. Of the large plantations one has over 5,000 acres under cultivation, one about 3,000; one 2,000 and two others 1,000 acres each. The smaller farms are from 200 to about 700 acres. Now that a standard scutching machine has been accepted exports should go forward moderately in 1894, but on a large and increasing scale in the following and future years.

17. The generally accepted standard of 600 plants to the acre, is now in many cases being changed to 800 and in some instances to 1,000. If this increased number be not found to impede harvesting by the inconvenient crowding of the trees, the yield per acre should, of course, be largely augmented. The estimated annual yield of a single tree is two pounds of fibre, and thus, instead of a return of 1,200 lbs. from the earlier planting of 600 trees, assuming that the results are not modified by want of room

for the full development of the plants, 2,000 lbs. will be the expected yield where 1,000 plants are given to the acre.

Fruit.

18. The export of Pine-apples in 1893 amounted to 39,386*l.* showing a decrease of 16,614*l.* on that of the previous year. The heavy falling-off in the shipments of this important product was attributable to the long-continued drought in the early part of the year, which materially impeded the growth of the crop, and the severe financial depression existing in the United States, which affected, to a disastrous extent, the fruit as well as other industries. The loss on realisation was nearly equal to that in the short production, and the actual shortcoming on this account was not less than 30,000*l.*

Shipping.

19. The following tables present an abstract of the shipping returns for the year 1893:—

Sailing Vessels Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews
With cargoes - - -	168	10,031	1,110
In ballast - - -	46	3,448	306
Total -	214	13,479	1,416

Sailing Vessels Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	87	7,071	537
In ballast - - -	54	4,636	331
Total - - -	141	11,707	868

Sailing Vessels Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	151	11,477	968
In ballast - - -	67	3,006	415
Total - -	218	14,483	1,383

Sailing Vessels Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	108	10,981	655
In ballast - - -	32	2,429	209
Total - -	140	13,410	864

Steam Vessels Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	45	53,705	1,066
In ballast - - -	6	5,023	205
Total - -	51	58,728	1,271

Steam Vessels Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	56	90,800	2,993
In ballast - - -	4	595	58
Total - -	60	91,395	3,051

Steam Vessels Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	39	51,920	993
In ballast - - -	4	3,250	154
Total - -	43	55,170	1,147

Steam Vessels Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	61	89,208	3,134
In ballast - - -	2	1,911	58
Total - -	63	91,119	3,192

These returns show an increase in sailing tonnage of 1,887 tons and in steam tonnage of 13,525 tons over those of the previous year.

Education.

20. The total expenditure upon education during the year 1893 was 4,800*l.*

There are 40 Government schools, in which the number of pupils on the rolls was 5,266, with anaverage attendance of 3,281 no fees being paid. There are also 13 aided schools, with 854 pupils on the rolls, and an average attendance of 495.

The Church of England has 33 schools unassisted, with a total roll of 1,707 pupils, and there are 29 other private schools with a total roll of 1,295 pupils.

The Nassau Training Institute for Teachers numbers on the rolls 12, and the evening school in connection therewith 36, pupils.

Criminal Statistics.

21. There were, during the year, 2,313 persons brought before the Magistrates' Court, of whom 362 were discharged for want of prosecution or want of evidence, 570 were cases dismissed on their merits, 1,326 were summarily convicted, 55 were committed for trial in the Superior Court, where judgment for the Crown was given in 29 cases. These cases do not present any features calling for special comment; since the convictions of the two persons connected with the outbreak of April last, the peace of the place has not been at all seriously disturbed.

Prison.

22. The total number of persons committed to prison during the year was 266; being 121 men, 79 women, and 66 juveniles; of these, 59, 40, and 16, respectively, had been previously convicted.

The average daily number of prisoners was 54 as against 49 in the previous year.

Hospital and Insane Asylum.

23. The daily average of patients in hospital was 84. There were 75 patients remaining at the end of 1892, and

243 patients were admitted during the year. Sixty-four patients were discharged as cured, 64 as relieved, and 10 not improved. There were 70 deaths.

The new Victoria Hospital, which was opened in June, 1893, is a building admirably designed for its purposes; it provides ample and airy accommodation for patients, and will meet all probable requirements for many years.

The new building is an eminently satisfactory solution of a long-vexed question, and will prove an inestimable boon to the community, which has suffered much for want of adequate or suitable hospital accommodation.

24. There were 11 lunatics admitted into the asylum, 3 were discharged cured, 1 relieved, and 5 died during the year.

Meteorological Observations.

25. The rainfall for 1893 was 65·23 inches, but rains generally were too late in the year for the crops; winds from north-east to south-east prevailed for 239 days. The mean air temperature at 9 o'clock a.m. and 3 o'clock p.m., ranged from 75·0 Fahr. and 74·3 Fahr. in March to 86·6 Fahr. and 86·7 Fahr. in July, the highest point reached being 97· Fahr.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SHEA,
Governor.

 377

No. 139.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 110.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
15 *August* 1895.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1895.

[C.—7847.] *Price 2d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to HerMajesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
106	Gambia	1893
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	1893-94
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	"
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893-94
131	British New Guinea	1892-3& 1893-94
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893-94
134	Jamaica	"
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	"
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 139.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 110.)

Acting-Governor MELVILLE to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Nassau,
May 27, 1895.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1894, together with the report thereon by Mr. Burnside, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

GEO. MELVILLE,
Administrator.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the year 1894.

The Blue Book of the Colony is made up for the year ending the 31st of December, while the financial year ends on the 31st of March.

It would be more desirable if there were no such difference, and it is therefore proposed to compile the next Blue Book to the 31st March, 1896.

Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.

The only changes since last year to be recorded under this head are the placing on the free list of mills and parts of mills, stills, and boilers, and, under certain conditions, articles imported for the purpose of being used in furnishing and fitting up a hotel within these islands.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for 1894 fell short of the estimate by over 10,000*l.*

Compared with 1893 the return shows an increase of 2,872*l.*, but, when the sum of 10,032*l.*, realized on debentures issued during the year is taken from the receipts, it will be seen that there has been a decrease of 7,180*l.* From this amount, however, there should be deducted the sum of 1,538*l.*, being assets of the late Public Bank, which in 1893 were transferred to the credit of the General Revenue, hence the actual decrease in the revenue proper might he put at 5,642*l.*

The principal items of revenue which show a marked decrease are:—

Decrease.	Cause.
(1.) Customs, 4,417*l.* - -	General falling off in imports, more especially in bread stuffs, owing to exceptionally large home crops; the imports of the two previous years being more than normal in consequence of a severe drought; also to the steady decline in the prime cost of almost all articles of consumption on which an *ad valorem* duty is paid.
(2.) Liquor Licenses, 615*l.* - -	These licenses are sold at public auction. Such a decrease in the amount realized in 1894 would point to a combination among the purchasers.
(3.) Post Office Revenue, 617*l.* -	In 1893 large sales of land were effected and stamp duties paid to the amount of 600*l.* odd, postage stamps being used, as there is no Inland Revenue Stamp.

The Expenditure was 47,645*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* and as compared with that of 1893 is 265*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* less.

The only extraordinary expenditure to be noted is 1,294*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* for Hurricane Relief, the remaining being the fixed and ordinary miscellaneous expenditure.

Assets and Liabilities.

Excluding the loans on account of the late Public Bank and the cable the liabilities at the close of the year amounted to 59,080*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, and the assets to 12,173*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

Public Debt.

The year ended with a debt of 119,626*l.* At the close of 1893 it had been reduced to 110,226*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* but, during 1894 a further loan of 10,000*l.* was raised. The sum of 500*l.* was paid off on account of the loan of 1885.

Local Boards.

In New Providence there are seven, viz. :—

(1.) The Board of Public Works, consisting of five members who are appointed by the Governor, three from either of the Executive or Legislative Councils, and two from the House of Assembly. The Colonial Secretary is usually chairman. The Board is vested with the supervision and control of all public works in the Island, and with the expenditure of all moneys which may from time to time be granted for any public work the control or expenditure of which may not be otherwise provided for by law. It has also the control of the Royal Victoria Hotel.

The receipts for the years amounted to 4,494*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* and the expenditure to 4,378*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

(2.) The Commissioners of the New Providence Asylum, consisting of three persons who are appointed annually by the Governor, have the general management of the Institution and act as a central board for the administration of all matters relating to the support of the aged and infirm poor on the several out-islands and districts of the Government.

The receipts for the year amounted to 3,171*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* and the expenditure to 3,233*l.* 9*s.* 0*d.*

(3.) The Board of Education, consisting of twelve members, exclusive of the Governor, who is President. The members are annually appointed by the Governor, only eight of whom can be members of the Legislature. This Board is vested with the general management and direction of Public Education throughout the Colony.

Its receipts for the year amounted to 3,775*l.* and its expenditure to 4,377*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* The excess of expenditure was provided for by a balance from the previous year.

(4.) The visiting committee of the Nassau Prison, consisting of three members appointed annually by the Governor, the stipendiary and circuit magistrate for the time being acting in New Providence being chairman, has the management of the prisons throughout the Colony. There is no local Act governing this department. The receipts amounted to 1,463*l.* and the expenditure to 1,421*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*

(5.) The Commissioners of Pilotage, consisting of seven members appointed annually by the Governor, have the control of pilots, harbour-master, and of all masters of vessels or seamen and

other persons employed or making use of the several harbours and anchorages in and about the Island of New Providence. The receipts amounted to 563*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* and the expenditure to 547*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, the receipts and expenditure being principally on account of dredging operations.

(6.) The Board of Health appointed by the Governor and composed of the Medical Inspector and the Inspector of Police as *ex officio* and three other members.

This Board advises the Government in all matters concerning the health of the Colony.

(7.) Trustees of the "Nassau Public Library, Reading Room, and Museum," consisting of seven persons, four of whom are appointed by the Governor and three elected by the subscribers. They are vested with the general management of the Institution. The receipts amounted to 257*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure to 169*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

Other Boards.—Besides the Boards in New Providence there are 24 local boards of works on the out-islands of the Colony, which have almost similar powers as the Board of Works in New Providence and are appointed by the Governor. They have sums annually granted to them for the up-keep of public works in their respective districts.

For the year under review, grants in sums ranging from 10*l.* 10*s.* to 262*l.* amounted in the aggregate to 1,540*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

On these Islands there are also local boards of health and pilotage, and at Harbour Island, Inagua, and Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, where there are libraries, there are also trustees of such libraries, the law under which they exist defining who they shall be.

Public Works.

The grants for public works were for the up-keep of roads, drains, abutments, light stations, and public buildings. There is nothing extraordinary to deal with. The Legislature's grants for the year amounted to 4,420*l.*

Legislation.

The 13 Acts passed by the Legislature during the year are mainly in amendment of existing Acts. There are none requiring special mention.

Political Franchise.

There have been no changes under this head. The qualifications of a member of the House of Assembly are, having attained 21 years of age, a residence of 12 calendar months, and the possession of personal or real estate of the value of not less than 200*l.* The Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General,

and Receiver-General and Treasurer qualify in respect of their offices.

The qualifications of an elector as to age and residence are similar to those of the representative, and he has also to be the owner of land to the value of 5*l.* or, in New Providence, to be a housekeeper occupying a house, the annual rental of which is not less than 2*l.* 8*s.*, and on the out-islands not less than 1*l.* 4*s.*, for six months.

Councils and Assemblies.

Executive Council.—There is no particular time fixed for the sitting of this Council; the Governor calls a meeting whenever he deems it necessary.

There were no changes in the Members.

The Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, and Receiver-General and Treasurer are *ex officio* members and there are five unofficial members.

Legislative Council.—There are at present seven members. There were three vacancies during the year, owing to the deaths of Mr. A. C. Lowe and Mr. Robert Butler and to the transfer of Mr. F. C. Halkett, Provost-Marshal and Commandant, to another Colony. Two of the vacancies have been filled by the appointments of Mr. C. A Fraser, Provost Marshal and Commandant, and Mr. H. A. Brook, Registrar of Records.

House of Assembly.—There are 29 members returned for 14 districts, of which New Providence sends 8, Abaco 3, Andros Island 2, Exuma 2, Harbour Island 3, Eleuthera 3, Grand Bahama 1, Inagua 1, Long Island 2, Rum Cay and Watlings 1, San Salvador 2, Crooked Island 1. The duration of the Assembly is limited to seven years. The last general election took place in 1889. The session in 1894 lasted from the 6th February to the 2nd April.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Appointments, Promotions, &c.

Governor His Excellency Sir Ambrose Shea was absent from the 26th June to the 28th October, and again left on the 26th December on final relinquishment of the Government. On both occasions Mr. George Melville, C.M.G., administered the Government and Mr. Nigel B. Burnside acted as Colonial Secretary. From the 1st of January until the arrival of Mr. Melville on the 5th March 1894, Mr. Burnside also acted as Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Robert Butler, Receiver-General and Treasurer, died on the 1st August and was succeeded by Mr. Hesketh Bell.

Mr. H. C. Lightbourne, Port Officer, died on the 26th May, and was succeeded by Mr. R. D. Jeffreys, R.N.

Mr. J. F. W. Turtle resigned his appointment as Examining Officer and Warehouse Keeper and was succeeded by Mr. H. B. L. Jameson.

Chief Justice C. G. Walpole arrived on the 19th March in succession to Mr. R. D. Yelverton.

Mr. F. C. Halkett, Provost-Marshal and Commandant of Constabulary, was appointed Colonial Secretary and Treasurer of the Falkland Islands, and was succeeded by Mr. C. A. Fraser.

Mr. T. A. Thompson, Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, was appointed Judge of the Falkland Islands, and was succeeded by Mr. R. S. Johnstone.

There were several changes in the Resident Justices, the principal ones being the transfer of Mr. J. C. O'Halloran from Governor's Harbour to Harbour Island; Mr. P. W. D. Armbrister from Green Turtle Cay to Governor's Harbour; Mr. Thos. F. Jones from The Biminis to Green Turtle Cay; and Mr. W. V. Stuart from the Bight to Long Cay, in succession to Mr. Thos. O'Connor, who was promoted to an office under the Turks Island government.

Population.

According to the census of 1891 it was shown that the population of the Colony was males 22,555, females 25,010.

The following statement shows the births and deaths from that period up to the present year.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Difference.
1891 - - - -	1,200	1,052	848
1892 - - - -	1,889	1,229	660
1893 - - - -	1,939	1,181	758
1894 - - - -	1,978	1,114	864
			3,130

As the emigration and immigration are about equal, the population, at the close of the year, can fairly be estimated at 50,695.

No distinction is made in registering the white and coloured population, but the former is estimated to be about one-sixth.

The average birth-rate is about 40 per 1,000, and the death-rate 24 per 1,000.

The marriages recorded during the past four years are:—

1891	362
1892	352
1893	334
1894	354

Ecclesiastical.

There are at present only four state-paid clergymen of the Church of England, and on their incumbencies ceasing the Colony will be relieved, under the Disestablishment Act, of any further payments.

The total amount paid by the Colony under this head amounted to 927*l.*

The following statement shows the number of places of worship in the Colony:—

Episcopal	91
Wesleyan	31
Baptist Union	27
Native Baptists	38
Baptists	67
Presbyterian	1
Roman Catholic	1
Total	256

Education.

There were in 1894 forty-one Government Board Schools with 2,775 boys and 2,617 girls, total 5,392, and an average attendance of 3,259·8, against, in 1893, forty schools, 2,729 boys and 2,537 girls, total 5,266, with an average attendance of 3,287·2; the cost in 1894 being 3,006*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* as against 2,958*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* in 1893.

Besides maintaining these schools, the Board contributed 190*l.* towards 13 grant-in-aid schools with 475 boys and 443 girls, total 918, with an average attendance of 506·2.

With regard to the Government Board Schools, the Inspector of Schools remarks: "The organization, discipline and course and method of instruction in the Government schools approximate, as nearly as local circumstances render practicable and expedient, to those of schools under the British and Foreign School Society.

The teachers are, however, with few exceptions, inferior in attainments and in ability to teach; the population is more scattered, causing the attendance to be more irregular, and the hours of instruction are fewer. Hence the results are not generally equal to those produced in good elementary schools in England. Certain expenses of a general nature, *e.g.*, cost of buildings, furniture, materials, administration and inspection are not included under expenditure of each school. The total amount spent was 4,580*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, which gives 14*s.* 4½*d.* for each child on the register, or 1*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.* for each one in average attendance, including the grant-in-aid schools."

The Government Training Institute for teachers was closed at the end of August, having proved a failure. The sum paid during the year was 489*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The number of schools in connection with the Church of England was 33, the same as in 1893, with a total on the rolls of 1,718 as against 1,707 in 1893.

Other private schools numbered 35, with 1,415 on the Rolls.

The following statement shows the total number of children in the Colony receiving education :—

Government - - - - -	5,392
Grants-in-aid - - - - -	918
In connexion with the Church of England -	1,718
Other private - - - - -	1,415
Total - - -	9,443

Publications

The only newspaper is the "Nassau Guardian," issued bi-weekly, with a circulation of 450 to 500.

Currency.

The average rate of exchange with London during the past year was two per cent.

There is one Bank in the Colony, viz.,—the Bank of Nassau, with a note circulation of 5,500*l.*, with a capital paid-up of 10,000*l.*, and with deposits amounting to 19,622*l.* The estimated amount of coin in circulation is between 7,000*l.*, and 9,000*l.* The principal coins in circulation are British and American. The American gold coins, viz.,—$20, $10, $5, $2½ and $1, pass at their face value, but their legal tender is respectively 4*l.* 2*s.*, 2*l.* 1*s.*, 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, 10*s.* 3*d.*, and 4*s.* 1*d.* There is no limit to legal tender of silver or copper. Accounts are by law required to be kept in sterling.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year amounted to 174,969*l.*, as against 188,345*l.*, in 1893, showing a decrease of 13,376*l.*, and the exports to 119,378*l.*, as against 117,021*l.*, in 1893, showing an increase of 2,357*l.*

The following comparative statements show the course of trade :—

Imports.

Country.	1893.	1894.
United Kingdom - - -	45,738	45,040
British Colonies - - -	3,588	2,687
Foreign Countries - - -	138,999	127,242
Total	188,345	174,969

Exports.

Country.	1893.	1894.
United Kingdom - - -	13,966	16,301
British Colonies - -	854	798
Foreign Countries - - -	102,201	102,279
Total	117,021	119,378

From the above statements it will be seen that in 1893 the imports exceeded the exports by 71,324*l.*, and in 1894 by 55,591*l.*

The following statement of the principal articles of food imported during the years from 1891 to 1894 inclusive shows that in nearly every instance the importations in 1892 and 1893 exceed, either in value or in quantity, those of 1891 and 1894. During the intervening years a severe drought prevailed and the importations of bread-stuffs were larger. The food crops of 1894 were exceptionally large, and hence the falling off in the importations. For instance, the quantity of flour imported in the years 1891 and 1894 was respectively 27,571 and 32,967 barrels, and in 1892 and 1893, 35,884 and 37,330 barrels, showing an excess in the latter years of 12,676 barrels.

Statement of the Principal Articles of Food imported during years 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894.

Articles.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
					£	£	£	£
Beans and Peas - - bus.	651	1,172	1,688	593	245	342	479	193
Bread, Corn - - - brls.	527	558	624	469	264	259	281	201
Bread, Fancy - - - lbs.	49,528	56,748	47,498	44,073	715	871	724	635
Butter - - - - lbs.	112,562	105,419	111,213	107,900	4,623	4,746	5,542	4,836
Corn - - - - bus.	6,726	9,112	8,250	7,090	889	1,115	960	843
Corn-meal and hominy - brls.	11,005	15,852	14,391	11,213	8,412	10,513	9,028	7,070
Flour - - - - brls.	27,571	35,884	37,330	32,967	26,621	27,773	25,712	20,295
Lard - - - - lbs.	168,518	163,487	159,469	181,709	2,369	2,403	2,725	2,382
Meat, salted, (including pork) - lbs.	613,354	615,638	543,035	510 016	7,696	9,608	10,276	8,065
Meat, fresh - - - lbs.	23,008	19,976	19,262	21,864	319	791	761	827
Potatoes and other Vegetables - brls.	1,438	1,832	2,048	2,111	820	987	1,205	893
Rice - - - - lbs.	1,488,438	1,612,600	1,617,418	1,544,222	6,233	7,009	5,616	4,754
Fish dried - - - lbs.	28,166	40,600	41,087	26,251	232	353	337	237

Comparative Statement of other Principal Imports.

Articles.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
					£	£	£	£
Ale and porter in bottles doz. qts.	2,154	2.159	2,674	2,132	699	848	891	768
Ale and porter in wood - glls.	9,557	8,000	6,789	4,159	716	708	458	449
Coffee - - - - lbs.	98,002	49,699	77,320	75,824	3,712	1,383	2,012	2,847
Copper, Yellow Metal - - lbs.	15,573	23,304	10,609	20,015	445	572	257	428
Gin, whiskey and other unenumerated Spirits. - glls.	12,738	14,435	12,123	10,572	2,169	2,404	1,994	1,742
Machinery - - - val. £	260	256	2,228	3,824	260	256	2,228	3,824
Manures - - - brls.	2,174	2,305	1,568	1,016	2,494	2,466	1,744	1,169
Molasses - - - glls.	6,174	9,904	6,760	8,816	293	467	383	463
Nails of Iron - - - lbs.	84,394	97,302	87,912	94,471	532	658	534	556
Oats and Bran - - - bus.	6,792	11,078	9,124	11,057	668	957	822	990
Oil, kerosene - - - glls.	53,595	71,838	64,094	72,249	1,562	1,620	1,317	1,538
Oils paying 9*d.* gln., linseed, &c. - glls.	5,326	6,955	5,704	6,050	610	811	614	670

389

Articles.		Quantity.				Value.			
		1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
						£	£	£	£
Oils paying 1s. gll., essential	gls.	634	178	1,776	212	54	56	119	43
Rails, iron	No.	—	—	2,589	—	—	—	900	—
Rum 18° to 24°	gls.	20,626	21,397	15,988	14,525	3,205	2,601	2,059	1,663
Rum, weaker than 24°	gls.	645	1,228	149	—	73	152	32	—
Sugar, refined	lbs.	287,126	184,687	189,904	203,435	2,768	1,729	2,070	1,778
Sugar, unrefined	lbs.	679,260	841,749	740,017	770,079	5,518	6,345	5,532	5,710
Sugar, white clayed	lbs.	85,751	105,586	114,431	85,664	888	729	1,177	751
Tobacco, manufactured	lbs.	81,188	67,535	89,613	81,099	3,008	2,496	3,252	2,738
Tobacco, unmanufactured	lbs.	40,061	61,061	40,692	43,428	1,279	1,737	1,307	1,121
Wines	gls.	2,868	4,628	3,523	3,157	783	1,052	774	804
Ad valorem at 20 per cent.	val. £	75,639	82,208	76,391	75,994	75,639	82,208	76,391	75,994

391
15

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports:—

Article.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
					£	£	£	£
Bark, cascarilla - - lbs.	53,160	119,180	51,172	61,251	405	921	299	544
Bahama-hemp - - - lbs.	21,050	68,352	117,430	174,072	149	692	1,200	1,728
Cotton - - - - lbs.	56,273	95,367	101,236	65,658	927	1,583	1,677	907
Curiosities, marine - - val. £	163	200	118	124	163	200	118	124
Fruit and vegetables, fresh, viz.:—								
Bananas - - bunches	5,420	8,966	2,924	3,121	197	432	122	137
Cocoanuts - - - No.	28,166	40,550	44,550	10,089	112	111	56	42
Grape fruit - - - No.	178,994	161,015	67,400	101,100	314	267	98	193
Limes - - - No.	57,500	(brls.) 15	—	—	25	8	—	—
Oranges, China - - No.	2,125,097	3,082,879	1,097,100	675,619	2,253	3,025	1,085	530
Oranges, Seville - - No.	30,500	1,200	6,000	—	30	1	3	—

Article.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Fruit and Vegetables, fresh,—*cont.*								
Pineapples - - - doz.	510,408	665,332	472,960	569,832	£ 45,966	£ 56,061	£ 39,386	£ 42,568
Pears, avocado - - No.	8,870	8,050	(crates) 125	No. 2,350	15	14	12	10
Sappodillas - - - No.	90,600	63,600	58,460	29,400	45	30	33	19
Shaddocks - - - No.	2,500	—	390	—	7	—	2	—
Tomatoes - - crates.	1,833	1,842	947	1,063	74	84	33	51
Goat-skins - - - val. £	45	—	—	—	45	—	—	—
Hats, straw - - - No.	2,722	3,065	4,350	2,060	18	29	44	17
Hides, raw - - - No.	7,209	9,962	7,410	4,559	257	360	246	87
Horses - - - - No.	7	—	—	6	34	—	—	43
Mats, straw - - - No.	90	100	235	121	2	1	5	6
Preserves, viz.:—								
Cocoa Plums - - c/s	36	—	—	—	8		—	—
Guavas - - - c/s	614	450	100	300	249	243	33	446
Pine-apples - - - c/s	16,919	16,929	13,756	15,397	3,793	3,425	2,467	3,022

Article.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Shells, small - - - brls.	746	562	559	845	£ 413	£ 410	£ 437	£ 492
Salt - - - - bus.	146,578	120,130	176,515	156,688	1,705	1,978	2,068	1,717
Shells, conch - - - No.	106,682	50,245	97,273	49,434	187	165	197	83
Shell-work - - - pkgs.	105	(val.) £ 30	(val.) £ 12	(val.) £ 22	32	30	12	22
Sponge - - - l s.	1,105,974	1,143,399	945,612	1,000,928	58,682	65,544	58,615	59,155
Turtle - - - - No.	2,065	983	1,382	1,719	1,017	610	862	656
Turtle-shell - - - lbs.	11,026	5,543	5,462	7,343	6,847	3,832	4,158	5,310
Turtle-backs - - - val. £	9	(No.) 92	(No.) 10	(No.) 3	9	31	6	4
Woods, viz. :—								
Cedar - - - tons	2	—	(pcs.) 4,000	—	3	—	20	—
Crab - - - sticks	200	—	200	4	1	—	1	1
Hardwood - - - pcs.	76	(tons) 52	—	—	44	144	—	—
Lignum vitæ - - tons	375	38	130	74	838	79	413	164
Logwood - - - tons	473	967	466	201	1,720	3,307	1,554	635

Article.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
					£	£	£	£
Woods.—*continued.*								
Madeira - - pcs.	117	—	—	—	45	—	—	—
Mahogany - - pcs.	11	30	92	(logs) 12	30	50	119	21
Sabica - - logs	426	(tons) 123	105	(tons) 76	157	159	265	152
Satin - - tons	35	4	(pcs.) 350	—	87	14	9	—
Timbers - - No.	610	1,050	—	(pcs.) 200	6	27	—	2
Yellow wood - - tons	10	22	11	—	30	60	2	—
Timbers - - feet	—	12,400	—	—	—	71	—	—

Shipping.

The following statement shows a falling off in the number of steamers entered and cleared in 1894 as compared with 1893; due to the fact that nine more entered and cleared at Inagua.

These is also a falling off, as compared with 1893, in the number of sailing vessels.

Years.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1893 - -	355	25,186	111	150,123	358	27,893	106	146,289
1894 - -	333	23,895	100	149,353	335	28,770	96	144,865

Statement showing the Nationalities of the several vessels entered and cleared at ports in the Bahamas in 1894.

Nationalities of Vessels.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British - - -	434	24,911	54	70,730
American - - -	177	20,285	126	207,372
Haytian - - -	58	1,469	—	—
Dutch - - -	2	382	—	—
Norwegian - - -	2	618	4	2,316
German - - -	—	—	12	13,800

The steamers of the Ward Line of the United States of America, under contract with the Bahamas Government, make fortnightly trips to Nassau, hence the large excess of American over British steamers. There is a local steamship company with one steamer with a net tonnage of 588. This vessel makes monthly trips between New York and Nassau.

Agriculture.

The unsystematic manner in which land is cultivated in these islands makes it impossible to furnish information with regard to

the acreage of cultivated land in the Colony. The only instance in which cultivation is carried on with any system is that of the Sisal or Bahama-hemp, and the number of acres estimated as under cultivation with this plant is a little over 20,000. In most cases, small patches of land, ranging from perhaps one to five acres, are cut down and planted with maize, potatoes, peas, &c., and after a few years are abandoned and new places felled; this goes on until the lands have regained their fertility, when they are again used. In some few instances fertilizers are resorted to, more especially of late years in the cultivation of the pineapple.

The following is a statement of the principal agricultural exports for the years 1893 and 1894:—

Article.	1893.		1894.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Pineapples - Doz.	472,960	39,386	569,832	42,568
Oranges - - No.	1,097,100	1,085	575,619	580
Bananas - Bunch.	2,924	122	3,121	137
Tomatoes - -Crates	947	33	1,063	51
Guavas, preserved - c/s.	100	33	300	446
Pineapples, „ - c/s.	13,756	2,467	15,397	3,022
Pineapples, dried - brls.	28	146	—	—
Bahama-hemp - lbs.	117,430	1,200	174,072	1,728

During 1894 the Government granted letters patent for two fibre-cleaning machines.

Manufactures and Fisheries.

There are two factories in the Colony, one for preserving fruit, and the other for making soap. During the year, 22,000 cases of pine-apples were canned, using 60,000 dozen of the fruit, which cost one shilling per dozen. When the factory is in full work, about 200 labourers are employed daily, at an average cost of one shilling and sixpence each. The whole of the canned pine-apples in this factory are shipped to the United States.

The Sponge Industry is, without doubt, the life of the Colony. Several hundreds of vessels, ranging from 5 to 20 tons, are engaged in this work. Besides, it gives employment to numbers of men and women in preparing the article for export.

The following statement shows the quantities and values of this article exported in the years 1893 and 1894.

Sponge.	1893.		1894.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Clippings - -	122,675	439	101,915	207
Glove - -	4,872	266	9,064	450
Grass - -	305,302	9,772	291,353	9,178
Hardhead - -	15,188	1,007	12,156	731
Reef - -	73,957	6,647	68,816	6,362
Refuse - -	3,229	54	20,162	47
Velvet - -	242,595	18,880	313,985	22,220
Wool - -	120,446	18,811	119,440	16,858
Yellow - -	57,355	2,669	64,073	3,102
	945,612	58,615	1,000,928	59,155

A trade in Conch-pearls is carried on, but it would appear that they are privately exported out of the Colony, as no mention is made of them in the exports.

Grants of Lands.

The number of acres granted in the Colony during 1894 was 1,132½, 253⅓ being on Andros Island, and 724 on Inagua. Some of the land was sold at 5*s.* an acre, and some at 10*s.* 3*d.*

Gaols and Prisons.

As compared with 1893, there was a falling off of 29 in the number of persons committed in 1894, *i.e.*,—

	1893.	1894.
Men - - - - -	121	132
Women - - - - -	79	69
Juveniles - - - -	66	36
Total - - - -	266	237

The daily average was 54·20, as against 54·05 in 1893, and that of the sick list was 1·20, as against 4·63. There was one death.

The total cost was 1,355*l.*

The estimated amount of the prisoners' earnings was 895*l.*, their labour being on the roads and other public works.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons summoned or apprehended was 73 in excess of the previous year, but of this excess 63 are orders made over and above those of 1893 under the compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

The number of cases dealt with in the Superior Court was 11 less than in 1893, and is a diminution of about one-third.

Comparative statement of convictions and acquittals in the Summary Jurisdiction Courts.

	Convictions.		Acquittals.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Offences against the person -	248	217	192	112
Prædial larceny - - -	87	61	38	26
Other offences against property -	92	83	84	65
Offences against Masters' and Servants' Acts.	1	8	—	5
Other offences - - -	898	1,175	618	596

The following is a classification of the punishments :—

	1893.	1894.
Fine - - - - - - -	835	980
Imprisonment in lieu of fine - - - -	170	241
Peremptory Imprisonment - - - -	159	78
Whipping - - - - - -	19	53
Bound over with or without sureties or other trivial punishment.	143	192
Total - - -	1,326	1,544

Hospital.

The New Providence Asylum consists of the hospital proper, the Poor House, and the Lazaretto or Lepers' Department.

At the close of 1893 there were remaining 58 males and 52 females. During the year 1894, 148 males and 129 females were admitted, making a daily average of 41·1 males and 43·3 females.

The mortality is greater than in the previous year. The high mortality is attributed by the Resident Surgeon Superintendent chiefly to the following causes:—"Old age, phthisis, which is "very prevalent and fatal to our coloured people, and the "wretched habit the friends have of bringing patients to hospital "when all hope has ceased and when the only object to be gained "is to have the persons buried at the public expense."

The Victoria Jubilee Hospital is reported as having proved to be of "most excellent service, has filled a long felt want, and "appears to be most highly appreciated by the people. Visitors "have expressed the opinion that it compares most favourably "with similar institutions in the West Indies." The following is a statement with regard to the admissions, &c.:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining from 1893 - - -	15	10	25
Admitted in 1894 - - -	86	76	162
Total under treatment for the year 1894	101	86	187
Died - - - - -	15	15	30
Discharged - - - -	62	52	114
Transferred to Infirmary - -	8	4	12
Remaining at end of year - -	16	15	31

Infirmary and Poor House.

In this part of the institution are kept the old and infirm, and it is in this branch of the establishment that the chief mortality occurs, causing such a high death-rate in the whole establishment.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining from 1893 - - -	40	40	80
Admitted in 1894 - - -	58	52	110
Total - - - -	98	92	190
Die - - - -	35	27	62
Disc - - - -	33	30	63
Remaining - - - -	29	35	64

Lazaretto.

In this department two patients died, five were admitted, seven were discharged, leaving one at the close of the year.

Public Dispensary.

The cost of medicines for the year amounted to 325*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.*; this includes medicines sent to the out-islands.

Lunatic Asylum.

This institution adjoins the New Providence Asylum and is under the control of the Resident Surgeon Superintendent of that Establishment.

The admissions during the year are largely in excess of the previous year's and greater than they have ever been, so far as the records show. There is a great want of increased accommodation. There were 31 admissions, a daily average of 14 males and 15 females, 9 deaths, 8 cured and 3 relieved.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

The St. Andrew's Society, established in 1798, is a society which gives charitable assistance to persons in distress. It has 42 members, composed chiefly of the principal gentlemen of the place. It has invested funds to the amount of 1,085*l.*

Libraries.—The principal Library is the Nassau Public Library, Reading Room, and Museum, which has 13,500 volumes, besides having on file several English and American leading papers and reviews. It is supported to a great extent by Government. A small subscription is charged which is used in the support of the institution. There were 196 subscribers, 146 annual and 50 transient.

There are also small libraries at Inagua, Harbour Island, and Green Turtle Cay, Abaco.

The salaries of the librarians are paid by Government.

Meteorological Observations.

The following table shows the mean temperature and rainfall for the year :—

	Temperature.	Rainfall.
	Fahr.	Inches.
January - - - -	74·1°	0·45
February - - - -	74·4	0·09
March - - - -	76·0	1·32
April - - - - -	76·6	0·36
May - - - - -	80·6	8·99
June - - - - -	83·3	8·40
July - - - - -	85·6	4·60
August - - - -	86·8	5·92
September - - - -	84·9	13·82
October - - - -	82·7	10·55
November - - - -	78·7	3·73
December - - - -	74·5	0·99
Year - - - -	79·8	59·22

It is generally admitted that the climate of the Bahamas is excellent. From November to April the average temperature is between 74° and 78°, and refreshing sea breezes prevail during the summer months, which has the effect of making the climate more bearable.

The lowest air temperature recorded was 54·1° and the highest 97·3°.

The sanitary condition of the City and suburbs has been very good. The health of the Colony has also been good, no disease of a contagious or infectious character having appeared.

Savings Bank.

There is one post-office savings bank in Nassau, with branches at Governor's Harbour and Rock Sound, Eleuthera, Harbour Island, and Inagua. There are 881 depositors. The deposits during the year (2,145) amounted to 3,804*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.*, and withdrawals (1,343) to 3,914*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*; 227 accounts were closed and 255 opened. The total amount at the close of the year at the credit of the depositors came to 8,031*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, while the invested funds amounted to 7,754*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* Since 1889 there has been a steady decrease of the deficit of the Savings Bank.

Friendly Societies.

There are 51 friendly charitable and temperance societies in the Bahamas, with 4,022 members. The object of most of these societies is to aid members in sickness and to bury the dead.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

The Bahamas cable, extending from Nassau to Jupiter, Florida, is 211 knots long, with 6 miles of land line. It is owned by the Bahamas Government and has been in working order since 4th February, 1892. The superintendent reports that the cable, as shown by weekly tests, continues in perfect condition. The total cost of the cable was 33,311*l.*

There was a decrease in the revenue of the department, which is attributed to a general depression in trade:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts for the year - - -	993	17	0
Including Government and press messages - - - -	404	14	7
Cash paid into Treasury - -	£589	2	5
Annual charges on account of the cable:—			
Interest on loan - - - -	1,200	0	0
Sinking fund - - - -	535	0	0
Repair fund - - - -	700	0	0
Salaries - - - -	452	10	0
Miscellaneous - - - -	30	3	7
Total - - - -	£2,917	13	7

There were 955 messages sent, 978 received, and 220 services, a total of 2,153.

The rates on messages are as follows:—

	s.	*d.*
Nassau to points in America west of Mississippi River, per word - - - -	1	10
Nassau to points in America east of the Mississippi River, per word - - - -	1	6
Nassau to points in Canada, per word - -	1	8
Nassau to points in Great Britain, France and Germany, per word - - -	2	6

Telephones.—Government House is connected by telephone with the Colonial Secretary's Office, and the Police Barracks, and the latter place is connected with its out-stations in Grant's Town and the Eastern District.

Post Offices.

The total revenue for the year was 1,840*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, with an expenditure of 1,782*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service, and 2,395*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, showing a net deficit of 2,337*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The total number of letters dealt with was 145,794, post cards 3,065, newspapers 48,088, book packets, samples, and circulars 43,379, and parcels 2,012.

General Remarks.

The various subjects have been dealt with under their special heads and there remains but little to add in concluding this report.

The seasons have been very favourable and the people having reaped large provision crops their condition generally is better than that of the previous year. The outlook in this respect for the year 1895 is very promising.

NIGEL B. BURNSIDE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 177.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 139 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1896.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1896.

[C.—8279-1.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from he sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
142	Malta	1894
143	Gambia	,,
144	Windward Islands	,,
145	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
146	Gibraltar	,,
147	Falkland Islands	,,
148	Hong Kong	,,
149	Straits Settlements	,,
150	Lagos	,,
151	Seychelles	,,
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	,,
155	Ceylon	,,
156	Mauritius	,,
157	Labuan	,,
158	Gold Coast	,,
159	British Guiana	,,
160	Sierra Leone	,,
161	Jamaica	1894–5
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–5
164	Newfoundland	1895
165	Gambia	,,
166	Bermuda	,,
167	Leeward Islands	,,
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	,,
171	Gibraltar	,,
172	Malta	,,
173	Barbados	,,
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
175	Falkland Islands	,,
176	St. Helena	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

No. 177.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 139.)

Sir W. F. HAYNES SMITH to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Nassau,
July 8, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the annual Blue Book of the Bahama Islands for the year 1895 together with the report of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.

W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Financial.

At the commencement of the year 1895, in face of a prospective deficit, it became necessary to add to the sources of revenue and this was effected entirely by an increase of the import duties.

Specific duties on a large number of articles enumerated in the tariff were increased, especially those on wine, spirits and tobacco, whilst an *ad valorem* duty of 25 per cent. replaced the former duty of 20 per cent.

Although the new tariff came into force only on the 8th May, the receipts from import duties for the year were 45,783*l.*, which, as compared with the receipts (39,027*l.*) of the year 1894, showed an increase of 6,756*l.* This increase, however, was not entirely due to the amendment of the tariff but largely to a general improvement in trade.

The receipts from other ordinary sources of revenue were maintained at the usual level, with, generally, some slight increase, only two items being worthy of special note, viz., liquor licenses, the receipts from which were nearly doubled and the receipts from the telegraph line between Nassau and Florida, owned by the Colony, which were increased by one-third.

The total revenue from ordinary sources was 55,642*l.*, and that of the previous year 47,492*l.*, showing an increase for 1895 of 8,627*l.*

The deficit before mentioned was caused partly by expenditure which had not been foreseen and was unprovided for and partly by a falling off in the receipts from customs duties.

It was temporarily met by the issue of Treasury debentures to the amount of 10,000*l.*, and by the borrowing of 1,000*l.* from the Crown Land Fund.

The loan of 1,000*l.* was repaid in the course of the year, and debentures to the value of 5,000*l.* were also paid off and cancelled.

The revenue, increased as it has been by the new tariff and also very considerably by the vigilance exercised in the collection of duties and the prevention of smuggling, is now fully equal to the repayment of all the floating debt as well as to providing for the administration of the Government, especially in such departments as those of Education, Public Works, Prisons and Charitable Institutions on a scale adequate to the most pressing needs.

The Public Debt of the Colony amounts to 124,126*l.*, and the interest and sinking funds on the loans making up this debt form an annual charge on the revenue of 7,652*l.*

Although heavy, this is not a crushing weight on its resources, and the Colony may in respect of its finances be said to have recovered a position of stable equilibrium.

Civil Establishment.

Sir William Frederick Haynes Smith, K.C.M.G., having been appointed Governor of the Colony in succession to Sir Ambrose Shea, K.C.M.G., arrived at Nassau on the 9th July.

The Colonial Secretary, Mr. George Melville, left the Colony on the 16th of June and was succeeded Mr. J. Spencer Churchill.

Foreign Consuls.

Senor Pompeyo Diaz y Cossio was appointed Spanish Consul on the 4th of September.

Education.

Primary education is placed under the control of a Board of Commissioners assisted by an official inspector of schools.

In their report to the Legislature of their proceedings during the year 1895, the Board states that "owing to the reduction "in the funds at the Board's disposal, no new responsibilities were "assumed; the number of Board School's in operation was "therefore 41 as in the preceding year; they were attended "during some portion of the year by 6,221 pupils; there were "5,460 names on the rolls at the end of the year; and the "average attendance was 3,418·9."

The numbers on the rolls and the average attendance are both slightly in excess of the numbers reported for 1894.

Besides the Board Schools there are nine schools which are privately conducted, but receive grants in aid of their local

funds, and which have a nominal roll of 820 scholars with an average attendance of 498·4.

There were formerly 13 schools of this class and the Inspector of Schools reports that, although they have failed in a few cases, owing to the indifference of the parents or incompetence of the teachers, on the whole they are reasonably successful.

The amount paid in salaries was 3,078*l.*, in new buildings 393*l.*, in books and furniture 400*l.*, and in travelling allowances 100*l.*

There were also rents of school buildings and other minor expenses, which, together with grants in aid, amounting in sum to 138*l.*, raised the total of expenditure for the year to 4,472*l.* 10*s.*

Board Schools cannot be established in all the small and widely scattered settlements of this Colony without contracting an expenditure beyond the means at present at the disposal of the Board, but the cause of education receives the hearty support of all classes, and it is probable that with increased means succeeding years will witness considerable expansion of the system and larger results.

Provision for the higher education is to be found only in Nassau where there are several excellent schools:

The Nassau Grammar School,
The Queen's College,
St. Hilda's School.

Agriculture.

The agricultural industry is next in importance to the sponge fisheries as a source of wealth to the Colony and is capable of development on a considerable scale.

Both climate and soil are found to be well adapted for the growth of orange and lemon crops, pine apples, grape fruit, tomatoes, potatoes, and other vegetable produce, all of which might be sold at remunerative prices on the neighbouring continent.

With such a market within easy reach it would be natural to expect to find a well-established and permanent export trade in fruit and vegetables working with regularity.

That such a trade has never been organized is plainly to be seen, but to assign any precise causes for the evident failure would be difficult.

Crops deficient in quantity or quality for lack of fertilizers properly used, picking when the fruit is not sufficiently matured, or sometimes when over-ripe, bad packing without any attempt at grading the fruit, and entire absence of concerted arrangements for bringing the fruit for shipment and forwarding by steam vessels to New York; all of these have certainly been in operation at times and any of them would account for a season of unremunerative prices, and the consequent loss to, and discouragement of, peasant proprietors, who are the principal growers.

The destruction of the Florida orange groves by the severe frost of 1894 gave a great impetus to the export of oranges from the Bahamas and this fruit has fetched double its former prices and the necessity for improved methods of growing, packing, and shipping is obtaining increased recognition.

Dr. Morris, C.M.G., the Assistant Director of Kew Gardens, arrived at Nassau in December on a short visit to the Governor and during his stay he placed his large experience of tropical agriculture and his botanical knowledge at the service of the public.

In a series of interesting and instructive lectures delivered at Nassau and other places he passed in review the principal cultures for which these islands are suited, explaining the best methods of growing and gathering the crops and preparing for export.

His lectures were attended by crowded and appreciative audiences, and no doubt his visit will be productive of lasting benefit to the Colony.

Mr. McCarty, a well-known scientific and practical agriculturist from Florida, has since been engaged in the service of the Government and is now at work on experimental cultivation and investigations for the purpose of ascertaining which kind of fertilizers are best suited to the soils of the Bahama Islands, which are described by him as "composed of disintegrated or decomposed "oolitic limestone of a coralline formation with the addition of "decayed vegetation of various kinds."

His researches are made available for public use by letters written to the local newspaper which will be published in pamphlet form and distributed.

The Sisal plantations are doing well, but have not yet arrived at full maturity, most of the land planted with sisal having been taken up only within the last six years.

The principal seats of this new industry are the islands of Abaco, Andros, New Providence, Inagua, and Cat Island, and about 20,000 acres have been planted.

Many of the small growers who were engaged in this cultivation at the commencement made money by the sale of their young sisal plants, but the demand for these has died out, as the large plantations have become fully stocked and have established their own nurseries.

The people of the islands in which the plantations are situated have found their conditions of life improved by the employment given to them, and the industry bids fair to become a source of profit to the Colony at large, and Bahama hemp to become one of the principal staples of the Colonial trade.

Reverting to the subject of the fruit trade, it is worth while to notice that the steamers of the Ward Line have arranged this year to call at the island at Eleuthera during the pineapple season, and it remains to be seen whether growers and shippers can so combine their efforts as to ensure full cargoes and a continuance of this convenient arrangement.

In the matter of early shipments of pineapples it is probable that the Bahamas cannot rival Cuba and Jamaica owing to different climatic conditions and possibly other causes.

The first shipment of this year, consisting of 902 barrels, arrived at New York on the 17th May, and at that date 39,884 barrels had already been received from Havana.

But the supplies to the New York fruit market from Cuba and Florida are likely to be deficient in quantity this year, and the Bahamas shipments will probably meet with a ready sale and good prices, and the trade which declined to a very low ebb in 1895 may experience a revival.

Trade and Shipping.

There is little change to be noticed either in the volume or direction of the Colonial trade.

The estimated total value of the imports and exports in 1895 and the preceding year were as follows:—

	1895.	1894.
	£	£
Imports - - -	172,581	174,969
Exports - - -	124,011	119,378

Nearly three-fourths of the total trade is with the United States, and the remainder, with very small exception, with the United Kingdom, the exact proportions being:—

	Imports from	Exports to
	£	£
United States - -	118,817	89,702
United Kingdom - -	45,040	16,301

Articles liable to specific duties, including malt liquors, spirits, wines, oils, flour and all kinds of food-stuffs, were imported from the United States to the value of 81,126*l.*, and from the United Kingdom to the value of 8,768*l.*

Those subject to *ad valorem* duties, such as hardware, textile fabrics, boots and shoes, and some other manufactures were imported from the United States to the value of 46,414*l.*, and from the United Kingdom to the value of 27,360*l.* Imports of this class are not separated in the Blue Book returns, and it cannot therefore be shown in what class of manufactured goods trade with the United Kingdom may have increased or the reverse.

BAHAMAS. 1895.

The subjoined table will show the relative value of the principal exports in 1895 and the preceding year:—

Articles exported.	Value.	
	1895.	1894.
	£	£
Bahama hemp - -	3,987	1,728
Cascarilla bark - -	1,066	544
Cotton - - - -	289	907
Pineapples - - -	22,784	42,568
Oranges - - -	4,908	580
Other fruit - - -	1,118	500
Sponge - - -	67,561	59,155

The shipping returns for 1895 show the total aggregate tonnage of all sailing vessels entering or clearing with cargoes, or in ballast, to have been 54,308 tons, of which 26,874 were British and 27,434 foreign.

By comparison with the returns for 1894 they indicate an increase of trade and a slight predominance of foreign vessels for in that year the total aggregate tonnage was only 47,665 tons, of which 24,911 were British and 22,754 foreign.

The greatest part of the carrying trade is done by sailing vessels, the only steam vessels engaged in it being the s.s. "Antilia," owned in Nassau, and those of the Ward Line subsidized to carry mails and passengers between Nassau and New York.

The latter anchor outside the harbour and freight has to be transhipped to lighters.

Steam vessels call frequently at Inagua, the most southerly island of the Bahamas group, principally for the purpose of engaging labourers to load and unload cargo.

The vessels of the "Peoples Line" and of the "Clyde Line" plying between New York and Hayti call every month on the outward and homeward voyages. Also steamers known as mahogany ships, plying betwe Boston and ports on the Mosquito coast, call at Inagua for labourers on contract once every six weeks. Also at the island of Long Cay steamers of the "Atlas Line," plying between New York, Jamaica, Hayti and South American ports, call once a week homeward and outward bound.

Grants of Land.

The demand for grants of Crown land in 1895 diminished. There were 38 grants and only 395 acres were disposed of, whilst in the previous year there were 66 grants to a total of 1,132 acres granted.

The Surveyor-General's returns show a total of 1,779,707¾ acres still unalienated, and of land sold up to the present time 338,429¼ acres.

General Remarks.

A hurricane passing northwards from the Gulf in the month of October was felt rather severely on the islands lying to the north and west, especially Grand Bahama and Biminis, where the inhabitants suffered considerable loss by the destruction of their houses and provision grounds.

Their immediate necessities were relieved by the despatch of flour and other food stuffs from Nassau.

Those islands are more exposed to storms than the islands which lie to the eastward, and in 1894 the people had suffered in the same way and a sum of 1,294*l.* had been spent in measures for their relief.

The insurrection in Cuba, and the facilities which so many uninhabitable cays and islands afford for the concealment of depots of arms and ammunition intended for the use of the insurgent forces, made it necessary to take precautions to prevent, as much as possible, any such breaches of the neutrality laws. Accordingly one of Her Majesty's ships was stationed in these waters during the greater part of the year, and, several depôts of rifles and ammunition having been discovered on uninhabited cays, the contents were all brought to Nassau and confiscated.

Twenty-one armed persons of Cuban and Spanish nationality landed at the island of Inagua from a steamer which was prosecuting her regular voyage from New York to Hayti.

Their purpose of proceeding to Cuba to act against the Spanish Government was so evident that, H.M.S. "Partridge" arriving at Inagua shortly after their landing, they were conveyed on board that ship to Nassau where they were placed on their trial and eventually acquitted.

No restriction was placed on their personal liberty during their detention in Nassau, and after their acquittal they went back to the United States by the mail steamer. The extension of Mr. Flagler's system of railroads and hotels to Palm Beach, Florida, suggested the possibility of making Nassau more available as a winter resort for American tourists by running a first-class steam vessel between the two places.

The members of the Assembly having agreed to a subsidy of 100*l.* a week for eleven weeks a contract was entered into and the s.s. "Northumberland" of 1,255 tons register, fitted to carry 60 first-class passengers, was placed on the line and made her first trip on the 15th January in the present year.

The subsidy was for one trip per week, but the vessel continued running, making three trips each way nearly every week, until the 9th of April, when the service closed for the season.

The success of this experiment fully justified the expectations which had been formed of it, the passages each way being made with regularity and within the contract time, fourteen hours, and the number of passengers was even larger than was hoped for.

During the season this vessel carried 800 passengers.

BAHAMAS. 1895.

The year was unfortunately distinguished by the total wreck of the "Cienfuegos," one of the two steamers of the Ward Line which ply between New York and Cuba, calling at Nassau each way, fortnightly.

The vessel was stranded on Egg Island Reef in calm weather, and a calm sea on a coast which, whatever may have been its bad repute in former days, is now fully guarded by light-houses at the charge of the Government.

The wreck occurred in the month of February, at the time when many of the passengers were Americans proceeding to Nassau to spend the winter season. No lives were lost, but the passengers experienced much hardship by exposure to the elements, bad lodging, and food before they could be carried to Nassau, and also by loss of baggage.

This accident, by the fears which it inspired as to the safety of travellers by the Ward Line steamers, doubtless lessened the number of winter visitors and was consequently the occasion of loss to the large class of persons who profit by their expenditure.

J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,
Colonial Secretary.

June 28, 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 193.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 177.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8279.–17.] *Price* ½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–5
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	1894
166	Bermuda	,,
167	Leeward Islands	1895
168	British New Guinea	1894
169	Zululand	1894–5
170	Sierra Leone	1895
171	Gibraltar	,,
172	Malta	,,
173	Barbados	,,
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
175	Falkland Islands	,,
176	St. Helena	,,
177	Bahamas	,,
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
184	British Honduras	1894 and 1895
185	Lagos	1895
186	Basutoland	,,
187	Ceylon	1895–6
188	British Guiana	1895
189	Gold Coast	1895–6
190	Jamaica	1895
191	Canada	1895–6
192	Bermuda	1895
		1896

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 193.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 177.)

Governor Sir W. F. HAYNES SMITH to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Nassau,
May 22, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Annual Blue Book of the Bahama Islands for the year 1896, together with a report thereon from the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1896.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year 1896 amounted to 65,126*l.*, which, as compared with the revenue for 1895 (56,642*l.*), shows an increase of nearly 10,000*l.*

This increase was due mainly to increased receipts from customs duties, as the higher tariff rates passed in May 1895 had their full effect only in 1896 ; but it was partially due also to an increase in the volume of the Colonial trade.

The expenditure for the year 1896 was 60,134*l.*, which, as compared with that of 1895 (55,758*l.*), shows an increase of nearly 5,000*l.*

The increased charges principally accounting for this total increase may be stated as follows:—On account of public debt, 1,196*l.*; subsidy to Florida mail service, 1,200*l.*; charitable, 566*l.*; public works, 2,273*l.*

A surplus of 5,000*l.* revenue was left at the close of the year and became available for the service of the year 1897.

Public Debt.

By the Act 58 Victoria, chapter 1, passed in March, 1895, the Government was authorised to raise, by the issue of debentures, any sum not exceeding 10,000*l.* and, accordingly, in 1896, as the necessity arose, the Government under the authority of the above-mentioned Act and of the amending Act, 59 Victoria, chapter 3,

of 1896, issued debentures to the amount of 6,000*l.* through the agency of the Crown Agents, for the redemption of which a sum of 872*l.* will be annually set aside out of the general revenue, commencing with the present year, 1897.

During the past year also a sum of 1,196*l.* was taken out of the general revenue and set aside as the first instalment of a sinking fund, to be continued in this and following years, for the redemption of 5,000*l.* debentures issued in this Colony, being the unredeemed portion of the loan of 10,000*l.* raised under Act 57 Victoria, chapter 13, in the year 1894, for the redemption of which no provision had hitherto been made.

The total debt is 119,626*l.*, of which 11,000*l.* has been raised since 1894 in aid of revenue, and for the extinction of this part of the debt in the course of a very few years ample provision has now been made.

Public Works.

Excepting for a new road at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera and the construction of a new building to be used as a public library and school-room at that place, there were no works of any special character undertaken during the year.

The increase of expenditure in the Public Works Department, which amounted to 2,273*l.*, as compared with that of 1895 is attributable to the fact that larger sums were granted by the Legislature for the ordinary repairs of roads and buildings, both of which had been neglected in 1895 owing to financial difficulties.

The largest items of this increased expenditure were as follows:—New road at Governor's Harbour, 140*l.*; new building at same place, 250*l.*; repairs to roads in Harbour Island, 250*l.*; increase of grant for road repairs in San Salvador, 44*l.*

The vote for general works in Nassau, also, was largely increased for 1896, the chief items being for roads, lighthouses, Government House, public buildings and Royal Victoria Hotel, on which, respectively, the following sums were expended in the course of the year:—Road repairs, 1,297*l.*; lighthouses, 317*l.*; Government House, insurance and repairs, 147*l.*; public buildings, insurance and repairs, 84*l.*; Royal Victoria Hotel, insurance and repairs, 163*l.*

Legislation.

The principal work of the session of the Legislature in 1896 was the consolidation of the laws relating to magistrates and to the Superior Courts.

By the "Magistrates Act 1896" and the "Supreme Court Act, 1896," 45 Acts are removed from the Statute Book; whilst of those which remain, 218 sections have been repealed.

Council and Assembly.

At the close of the session of 1896 the septennial period for which the Assembly had been elected expired, and writs were issued for new elections.

As the result of these elections, 19 members of the former Assembly were re-elected and 10 seats were filled by new members.

The Council, consisting of nominated members, experienced no change.

Education.

The expenditure on primary education for 1896 amounted to 4,562*l.*

One new school was opened near Mastic Point, Andros Island, raising the number of board schools to 42; the number of children on the rolls being 5,575, and the average attendance 3,689·3.

There were 10 denominational schools open during the year and receiving grants in aid, with 929 children enrolled and an average attendance of 591·9.

The totals for the whole Colony were:—6,504 children on the rolls, with an average attendance of 4,281·2.

The numbers are greater than those given for 1895 by 124 and 363·9 respectively, and, with one exception, are considerably in advance of any previously reported.

Quoting further from the report of the Board of Education, it appears that "the grants paid to the Board during the year and "the salaries of the officers not paid out of those grants give an "average of about 88*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* for each school."

The cost of each pupil on the rolls would be about 14*s.* 2*d.*, and of each one in average attendance 1*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.*, and "these "sums include cost of buildings, furniture, books and materials and "administration, as well as the ordinary working expenses of the "schools."

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports in 1896 was 194,774*l.*, whilst the imports in 1895 were valued at 172,281*l.*, showing an increase during the past year of about 22,500*l.*

There were increased quantities imported of food-stuffs, cigars, coffee, corn, hay, dressed lumber, salt meat, and shingles, and bicycles to the value of 2,000*l.* were also imported.

The value of the exports in 1896 was 139,000*l.*, whilst the exports in 1895 did not exceed in value 124,000*l.*, showing an increase in the value of exports in 1896, as compared with 1895, of 15,000*l.*

The out-put of sisal fibre was nearly doubled, being 441 tons as against 242 tons in 1895. Increased quantities of grape fruit, tomatoes, salt, sponge, turtle shell, and logwood were exported.

There was a decrease in the quantities exported of cotton, bananas, oranges, pine-apples and pine-apple slips.

Agriculture.

Drought was experienced from the month of May to September and losses of the usual August crops of Indian and Guinea corn,

sweet potatoes, peas, and beans were reported from the islands of Exuma, Rum Cay, Watling's and San Salvador, causing temporary distress, which was relieved, where necessary, by forwarding supplies of food-stuffs from Nassau.

From the district of Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, the largest fruit centre in the Bahamas, the pine-apple cultivation is reported to be increasing, although the average price received in the season of 1896 was only 33 cents per dozen.

At this price, however, large growers are able to make a substantial profit.

The cultivation of sisal plantations is abandoned in some places, whilst in others it is reported to be on the increase.

From the two plantations at Inagua only 50 tons of fibre were prepared and shipped in 1896, work being suspended owing to low market prices.

The Inagua Sisal Company, also, has a flourishing plantation of one thousand acres on the island of San Salvador, which gave employment to many people in that island during the year and so mitigated the effects which the drought would otherwise have had upon them by the destruction of their ground provisions.

Encouraged by this company working in their midst, small proprietors of land have planted out 250 acres in sisal, of which 100 acres were planted in the course of last year.

At Abaco, also, the "Sisal Fibre Company" continues operations on a plantation of 5,000 acres.

The prospects for this new industry are now becoming more defined, and although it has absolutely failed to fulfil the anticipations once formed for it there seems to be less reason to fear that it will die out altogether and some reason to hope that it may in time become a small but well-established industry, returning fair profits to those engaged in it and giving a much-needed variety to the Colonial products, which at present are all included in the sponge and fruit trades.

Postal and Telegraph Statistics.

The Superintendent of Telegraphs reports that the Government telegraph cable line from Nassau to Jupiter, Florida, continued in excellent condition throughout the year, as shown by the weekly electrical test and the every-day work performed.

During the winter season a reduction of 50 per cent. in the charges was made, which continued until April 15th, and the revenue of the department showed a considerable increase during those months.

The number of messages which were received and sent during the year was 2,833, of which 346 were exchanged with the United Kingdom and 2,337 with other places, and 150 were Government messages.

The receipts for the year amounted to 1,068*l.*, showing a decrease, as compared with the year 1895, of 336*l.*

The Post Office revenue for 1896 was (omitting fractions) 2,358*l.*, showing an increase of 420*l.* as compared with the receipts of 1895.

The increase was occasioned by the increased sale of stamps, partly for postal purposes and partly to meet the demand from dealers and stamp collectors.

There was an increase of about 20 per cent. in the number of foreign postal packets in 1896.

The total number of postal packets passing through the Post Office was 294,356, which, as compared with the total for 1895, which was 245,897, shows an increase in 1896 of 48,459.

From the 7th February to 9th April 1896, a mail service was maintained between Palm Beach, Florida, and Nassau, and during that period 60,774 postal packets were received and despatched, whilst the number for the corresponding period of 1895 was only 37,823, showing an increase in the postal business, due to the increased postal facilities of that period, of 22,951.

J. S. CHURCHILL,
Colonial Secretary.

May 15, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 238.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 193.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046-6.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
209	Grenada	1896
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia...	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 238.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 193.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. CARTER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Nassau,

6th August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith one copy of the Blue Book Returns relating to the Bahamas for 1897, together with a Report from Mr. Hesketh Bell, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. Mr. Bell's report is an interesting one, and indicates an advance in the material prosperity of the Colony, notwithstanding the fact that the revenue for the year was about £2,000 less than that for 1896. He appropriately points out, however, that it is more than £6,000 in excess of the amount collected in 1895, and nearly £14,000 more than the revenue for 1894.

3. I may anticipate so far as to say that this healthy condition of affairs continues, the improvement this year being still more accentuated; while the revenue collected up to the end of July 1897 amounted to £38,670, that up to the same period in 1898 realized £46,012 3*s.* 5*d.*

I have, &c.,

G. T. CARTER.

496—200—8/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

BAHAMAS.
1897.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

FINANCIAL.

It will be noted with satisfaction that the financial condition of the Colony gives no cause for alarm.

The revenue collected in 1897 amounted to £62,754, and though about £2,000 less than the sum received in the preceding year, it was, nevertheless, more than £6,000 in excess of the amount collected in 1895, and nearly £14,000 more than the revenue for 1894. The decrease in 1897 lay in the Customs receipts, and had been anticipated in the Estimates. A severe drought in 1896 had caused failure of the provision crops in many of the islands, and had consequently encouraged large importations of food-stuffs which were liable to duty. Last year the crops were above the average, and the heavy importations of flour and hominy were correspondingly reduced.

The expenditure amounted to £63,405, which included £1,775 paid out of the Surplus Monies carried forward from 1896. The expenditure on account of the Public Debt exceeded that of 1896 by £1,290, and amounted to a total of £8,384. This excess was due to a new liability incurred for the liquidation of the Treasury debentures amounting to £6,000, which were issued in 1896 and are extinguishable in October 1906. There was also an increase of the expenditure on the Charitable Institutions entailed by the appointment and travelling expenses of an English trained nurse.

The expenditure on Public Works amounted to £6,644, exclusive of monies specially appropriated out of the Surplus Funds of 1896, and considerable improvements were effected in several of the islands.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony stands at £119,000. The two small loans raised in 1894 and 1896, amounting to £5,000 and £6,000 respectively, are being very rapidly extinguished by large annual instalments. The Sinking Fund for the Cable Loan now amounts to £3,839.

LEGISLATION.

The annual session of the Legislature produced 38 Acts, most of which were amendments of existing Statutes, and none of marked importance.

POPULATION.

The census of 1891 gave a total population for the whole Colony of 47,565. It is calculated that the population increases at the rate of about 800 each year, so that the present inhabitants of the Bahamas probably number over 52,000. No distinction is made in registering the white and coloured population, but the dark-coloured inhabitants may be estimated to outnumber those of European descent in the proportion of 6 to 1. The average birth-rate is 45 per 1,000, and the death-rate 24·7 per 1,000. The infant mortality is high and unduly raises the death-rate.

The climate of the Bahamas is very healthy and particularly conducive to longevity. Yellow fever has not been known for twenty years, and malarial fever is comparatively rare.

The Colony is remarkably well provided with places of worship, there being no less than 274 churches, chapels, and meeting houses scattered among the various islands. The Wesleyans and Baptists largely predominate.

EDUCATION.

The usual grant of £4,500 was expended by the Board of Education. There are 43 Government Board Schools, with 2,956 boys and 2,821 girls; total, 5,777 on the rolls. The average attendance was 3894·1. There are also 11 private schools receiving Government aid to the extent of £168, and with 958 scholars on their rolls. In addition to these, 2,472 boys and girls receive tuition at private schools, of which 31 are connected with the Church of England.

In his report for 1897 on the Government Board Schools the Inspector made the following remarks :—

"The schools are conducted as nearly as circumstances "will permit on the same lines as those of the British and "Foreign School Society.

"The qualifications of the teachers and the results pro- "duced are gradually improving, but the comparatively "large number of small schools and consequently small "salaries, the isolation and lack of intelligent supervision of "many of the teachers, and the long distances and rough "roads, often rendered impracticable by rain, which many "of the pupils have to travel, are unavoidable hindrances.

"The cost of buildings, furniture, materials, and adminis- "tration is not included in the sums set down for the several "schools. During 1896 the grants paid to the Board of "Education, and the salaries of two officers not paid out of

" these grants, amounted to £4,800, which gives 14*s.* 3*d.* for " each pupil on the rolls, or £1 1*s.* 1½*d.* for each one in " average attendance, including the grant-in-aid schools."

TRADE.

IMPORTS.

The total imports into the Colony in 1897 were valued at £186,010, of which £131,000 worth came from the United States of America, £46,000 from the United Kingdom, £4,400 from British Colonies, and £4,400 from various foreign countries.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom comprised cotton, woollen, linen, and silk goods ; earthenware, hardware sugar, rice, preserved meats, and machinery. From the United States the Colony obtained chiefly flour, cornmeal, butter, cattle, kerosine oil, lard, lumber, and shingles. There were also very large importations from America of cotton and woollen goods, earthenware, glassware, and furniture. It is, however, very satisfactory to note that the trade with the Mother Country has increased in a much higher ratio than that with the United States. During the last seven years the importations from America have only increased by £1,143, in a total value of £131,000, while there was an increase of £6,428 in the same period in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom, on a total of £46,000. The main increase in the British trade lay in the importation of rice, soap, machinery, and textile goods. The American manufacturers, however, appear to be competing strenuously in the supply of cotton stuffs, and show a much keener desire to supply showy goods, which catch the public taste, than is apparent among the English makers.

In spite of a popular desire for increased traffic both in Canada and in the Bahamas, the trade with the Dominion is very insignificant. In 1897 it only amounted to a value of £198. Tentative negotiations have been made with a view to an interchange of preferential duties, but they have, so far, only reached an initial stage. Though Canada could supply at slightly cheaper rates a large number of products at present imported from the United States, the absence of direct steam communication acts as a bar to the transfer of trade.

The importations of rum, gin, and other spirits amounted in 1897 to a total of 25,000 gallons. No intoxicating liquor is manufactured in the Colony. Rum comes entirely from Jamaica, while gin is imported from Holland.

There is reason to believe that the smuggling which was formerly carried on to a considerable extent between some of the islands and Jamaica has been reduced, and that the 25,000 gallons, shown by the Customs returns, may be taken to represent fairly accurately the total consumption of intoxicating spirits by the inhabitants of the Colony. Estimating the population to number 52,000, we find that the average consumption of spirits per caput per annum is barely half a gallon. This very moderate proportion is probably the lowest to be found in any sub-tropical Colony. It is the more noteworthy from the fact that, owing to the low duty levied under the Customs tariff, the retail price of spirits is probably less in the Bahamas than in any other place in the West Indies. The duty here is only 5*s.* per proof gallon, while in Jamaica, for instance, it is 12*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. A pint of rum or gin may be brought in the Bahamas for 1*s.*, and spirits are consequently within easy reach of the labouring classes. Drunkenness, however, is less frequently seen in these islands than in the towns of Great Britain, and there is reason to conclude that, even setting aside the zealous influence of temperance societies working in the Colony, the coloured native of the Bahamas is quite alive to the evils of an excessive consumption of spirits and is well able to take care of himself in such matters.

EXPORTS.

The exports from the Bahamas in 1897 were valued, locally, at £149,000, being £10,000 in excess of the value reported in 1896.

Of the total exports, a value of £114,000 went to the United States, £13,600 to Great Britain, £6,900 to Holland, and £10,600 to France. The principal products were sponges, pine-apples, sisal-fibre, oranges, grape-fruit, turtle-shell, salt, and various kinds of timber.

Sponge.

In spite of periodical alarms concerning the alleged exhaustion of the sponge beds, the fishery continues to be a flourishing industry. Prices in 1897 ruled high, and the various kinds exported, weighing 1,228,000 lbs., were valued locally at £90,000. During nine months in the year, the sponge fishery provides employment for large numbers of men and boys, and over 500 small schooners are engaged in it. The vessels are usually owned by capitalists, and the proceeds of a voyage are divided into a number of shares which are distributed, in varying proportions, between owner, captain, and crew. A voyage usually lasts from six to eight weeks, and is frequently very profitable to all parties. Small schooners

have been known to come into port after a six weeks' voyage with sponges worth from £300 to £400. The sponges are sold by auction in an Exchange at Nassau, and are chiefly purchased by agents for firms in New York. The processes of clipping, trimming, and packing sponges finds employment for a considerable number of males and females in Nassau.

The use of dredges or diving apparatus is forbidden by law, and the fishery is consequently restricted to those shallow banks where the sponges, growing on the bottom, can be reached by a long pole furnished with an iron hook. It is probable that at greater depths the yield would be much richer and the sponges of finer texture.

Sisal or Bahamas Hemp.

The shipment of this product during 1897 amounted to a little more than 402 tons. Very low prices ruled in the American and English markets, and the new industry was in danger of a complete collapse. Two of the most important enterprises, wherein very large capital had been invested, came to a termination, and others showed signs of a speedy dissolution. Towards the close of the year, however, the price of sisal-fibre advanced very considerably, and the improvement has since been maintained. A fresh impetus has been given to the industry, and there is every reason to believe that while the very sanguine anticipations made at the commencement will have to be considerably modified, the Colony will ultimately benefit largely from the cultivation and manufacture of sisal.

Fruit

The shipments of fruit were more valuable than those of many previous years. The severe frosts, which in 1895 had desolated the orange groves of Florida, still showed their effects in the diminished output of the Southern States. In spite of the heavy protective rate levied on imported fruit under the McKinley tariff, the productions of the Bahamas showed themselves still able to compete with the crops of Florida, and owing to a marked improvement in the packing of oranges and other fruit, the prices realized in 1897 were very satisfactory to the Bahamas growers. Though still inferior to the finer varieties produced in Florida and California, the oranges grown in these islands have a very good flavour and could easily be improved by greater care in cultivation. The climatic conditions of the Bahamas and their coralline soil would appear to be particularly favourable to the successful cultivation of all citrus fruits. Many of the adversities against which the Florida orange planters have to contend are not to be encountered in these islands. Frost is unknown,

excessive droughts are rare, insect pests and diseases may be kept within bounds, while the price of land and the rates of labour are much below those current in the Southern States. If the hundreds of young Englishmen who have had such disastrous experiences with orange groves in Florida had made their experiments in the Bahamas, there is good reason to believe that their fate would have been very different. Unfortunately for them and for the Colony, the possibilities of these islands in the direction of fruit growing have never been "boomed" at the proper moment, and by means of an extraordinary amount of judicious advertising, Florida attracted to herself a vast amount of British capital which has, for the most part, been a complete loss to the unfortunate investors.

The Bahamas still possess hundreds of thousands of acres of land thoroughly suited to the cultivation of citrus fruits, and young energetic men with small capital might do much worse than consider these islands as an encouraging locality for the speedy development of a moderate investment. Dr. Morris, C.M.G., the Assistant Director of the Gardens at Kew, who visited this Colony in 1895, and gave a series of lectures on its agricultural resources, expressed himself very hopefully concerning the favourable prospects of orange growing in the Bahamas. Persons interested in the subject may refer to the printed reports of Dr. Morris's lectures which contain much valuable information.

In addition to two and a half millions of oranges which were exported in 1897, the Colony also sent to the markets of New York over six hundred thousand grape-fruit. This fruit, sometimes known as the *Pomela* or "forbidden fruit," has suddenly sprung into much popularity in the United States. It is a variety of the citrus family, somewhat larger than an orange. Its bitter-sweet flavour is very refreshing, and the juice is considered to have a remarkably good effect on the digestive organs. A few years ago grape-fruit was almost unsaleable, while it now fetches from sixpence to eighteen-pence apiece in the New York markets. Considerable groves of grape-fruit trees are now being established in Florida, Jamaica, and in these islands, and the output will shortly be considerable. Owing, however, to the increased frequency of severe frosts in Florida, the British sub-tropical Colonies ought to have the advantage over their American competitors, and prospects are therefore encouraging.

Pineapples.

After sponge, the most important productions of the Bahamas are pineapples, of which no less than nearly five millions were shipped to the United States in 1897. They are chiefly grown on the islands of Eleuthera, San Salvador, and Long Island, but

BAHAMAS. 1897.

nearly every island of considerable size possesses soil which is suited to the cultivation of pineapples. The species produced is known as the "Scarlet" or red Spanish, and is of inferior quality. It is, however, a good traveller, and four-fifths of the output of these islands go to the canning factories at Baltimore. The methods of cultivation are shockingly primitive. As many as twenty thousand plants are crammed into an acre of more or less rocky ground, and it is only during the last three or four years that chemical fertilizers have been used on these fields.

In most cases, the pineapples are grown on the *metayer* system, the owners of the large tracts of land sharing with the cultivators the crop of fruit. These proprietors make advances in cash or provisions to the labourers until the reaping of a crop, and the cultivator is precluded, under an agreement, from selling his share to any other than the landlord. The price to be paid for the fruit varies from one shilling to one and sixpence a dozen, according to the date of production, and as the cultivator does not receive more for a fruit weighing 6 lbs. than he does for one that is only half that size, quantity and not quality is the object of his labour. From 18 months to two years must elapse between the planting and the reaping of a crop of pineapples, and in that interval the cultivator will have required so many advances in cash and provisions for the maintenance of his family that his account with the landlord in the shipping season is very often on the wrong side. This system is open to much objection. Apart from the unsatisfactory transactions in truck, the method acts as a bar to any improvement in cultivation and tends to the elimination of any independence on the part of the labourer.

When ripe the pineapples are cut and carried on the heads of men and women to the beach nearest the plantation, where they are shipped in large American sailing vessels. It will hardly be credited that in most cases the fruit is shipped in bulk in the ships' holds, and as a large schooner will carry from 75,000 to 150,000 pineapples, the condition of the fruit in the lowest layers when it arrives in Baltimore, after a 10 days' passage, may be better imagined than described. In spite, however, of these intensely primitive methods, the pineapple cultivation in the Bahamas is one of considerable profit and importance to the Colony, but there is every reason to believe, if more care were taken and a superior grade of fruit cultivated, the results would be manifestly more profitable to every one concerned. Tentative efforts are now being made to encourage the cultivation of the finer varieties of pineapples, and there seems to be no reason why the London market, which is now principally supplied by the Azores and the Canary Islands, should not provide a profitable outlet for Bahamas fruit of a superior grade.

Factories for the canning of pineapples have lately been established in Nassau and in Eleuthera, and in 1897 they shipped more than 20,000 cases of preserved fruit.

Salt.

The salt industry cannot be said to be flourishing. The output during the last seven years has decreased by one-half, and in 1897 amounted to barely 100,000 bushels. The heavy protective duty imposed by the United States Tariff has almost proved a death-blow to the trade, and the only markets now open to Bahamas salt are those of Canada and Jamaica. The islands principally interested are Inagua, Rumcay, and Exuma. Excellent salt can be produced in the pans there, but the industry is unfortunately handicapped by the entire absence of shipping facilities and the want of capital.

Turtle Shell.

The shallow seas around the Bahama Islands abound with turtles ; and turtle shell, valued locally at £5,600, was exported last year from the Colony. The creatures are generally caught in nets, and any specimen of fair size produces shell to the value of £2 or £3. Those which produce this valuable commodity are not edible, and are locally known as the "Hawks-Bill." The edible turtle is known as the "Green" one, and is also plentiful in these waters. When small ones are caught, they are deposited in large ponds known as "Crawls," where, after having been branded with their owner's mark, they are left to feed upon a particular kind of marine grass until they have attained a marketable size. Turtle meat sells in the local markets at 3d. per pound of live weight, and it is probable that an enterprise for the preparation of a concentrated form of turtle soup, such as has recently been established in Jamaica, would prove a profitable undertaking.

Woods.

The output of various kinds of valuable woods has of late years considerably decreased. During 1897 the quantities of lignum vitæ, mahogany, satin wood, braziletto, and log-wood barely amounted to £100. The denudation of the forests near the sea-board and the difficulties of transport from the interior of the islands are probably the causes of this reduction in exports.

Cotton.

Cotton, which was formerly the staple product of these islands, has practically ceased to be a production of this Colony.

BAHAMAS. 1897.

Several efforts have been made to re-establish the cultivation, but all experiments have failed owing to the presence of an insect pest, which apparently cannot be eradicated.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons who suffered imprisonment in 1897 was 1,783, as compared with 1,997 in the preceding year. Of these, however, only 12 were convicted in the Superior Courts, the remainder being punished for minor offences. It is to be regretted that in spite of the prevalence of prædial larceny in the Colony, the number of convictions for that offence amounted to only 33.

HOSPITALS.

261 males and 166 females were admitted to the hospital in Nassau during the year, of whom 83 died. The diseases most prevalent were phthisis, rheumatism, syphilis, ulcers and abcesses, malarial fever, and intestinal complaints. 30 cases of accidents were treated.

The lunatic and leper asylums are still connected with the general hospital—an arrangement which is open to much objection. In the leper wards 16 cases were segregated and treated during the year, and two of the patients died.

12 males and. 8 females were admitted into the lunatic asylum, while three males and three females died during the year. The average daily number of inmates was 29.

On the 22nd June, His Excellency Sir W. F. Haynes-Smith laid the foundation stone of a new male lunatic ward, to be erected at a cost of £1,500 in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. The building has been almost completed and is a handsome and commodious structure.

Owing to the appointment of an English trained nurse the internal administration of the hospital has been considerably improved.

In addition to those who receive medical or surgical treatment in the hospital, a number of infirm and aged persons, of both sexes, are cared for as destitute paupers. Prescriptions are also given gratis to out-patients, and food is distributed to a considerable number of pensioners in Nassau and the out-islands.

The total cost to the Colony of the hospitals and asylums now exceeds £5,000 per annum, being no less than one-twelfth of the public income. Each year, the Commissioners of the New

Providence Asylum apply for larger grants from the Legislature, and while the general prosperity of the Colony appears to be making marked progress, the calls upon public charity seem nevertheless to increase annually. In 1890 a sum of £1,676 was found to be sufficient for the maintenance of the hospital and asylum, while in 1897 the Legislature was asked to vote no less than £3,597 for the up-keep of the institution in addition to salaries, &c.

There is reason to believe that free medical aid is taken advantage of by persons who could afford to pay for professional care, and that many of the infirm and aged who have been maintained in the asylum are the parents of children who are well able to support their relatives. Many of these undutiful sons and daughters have emigrated to Key West and other places in America, where they are beyond the reach of claims, and they leave their aged parents in a destitute condition under a comforting assurance that a paternal Government will not allow them to starve.

Meteorological Observations.

The temperature of the air varied from the maximum of 90·5 in August to the minimum 56·0 in February. The mean temperature for the year was 79·4.

The rainfall was slightly over the average and measured 62·27 inches. There were no hurricanes or severe storms, and the general climatic conditions of the Colony were very good.

Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank attached to the General Post Office continues to make satisfactory progress. The depositors on the 31st December numbered 1,051, and the total amount to their credit was £9,523 5*s.* 4*d.*

Post Office and Telegraphs.

The postal revenue of 1897 amounted to £2,452, and the expenditure to £5,445. The Colony paid in subsidies for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony the sum of £3,650. The department during 1897 dealt with 173,068 letters, 3,483 post-cards, 59,842 newspapers, 53,614 book-packets, and 2,639 parcels.

The telegraph cable worked in a satisfactory manner and there were no serious delays in the transmission of messages. 2,503 cablegrams were dealt with, in addition to a considerable amount

of press news supplied every day for the information of the public. The receipts, however, compared unfavourably with those of 1896, being less by nearly £200.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It may be reported, in conclusion, that the Colony is, generally speaking, in a flourishing state, and that its condition has improved very materially during the last five years.

Within that short period the revenue has risen from £47,000 to over £62,000. Instead of constant disparity between revenue and expenditure, and frequent necessity for increasing the public indebtedness of the Colony, an equilibrium has at last been established in the finances, and there is every reason to hope that the Customs Tariff may in the near future be safely reduced. An import duty upon almost all manufactured goods, amounting to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, together with heavy specific rates levied on several important articles of consumption, would seem, at first sight, to entail a heavy rate of taxation on the community. It should be remembered. however, that direct taxation barely exists in the Bahamas, and that five-sixths of the revenue are derived from the import duties. There is no tax on land, while the rates on house property only amount to a shilling in the pound of rental, from which the tenements of the labouring classes are entirely exempt. The average taxation per head of the inhabitants of the Bahamas only amounts to about 24*s*. per annum, and this rate compares favourably with that of any other sub-tropical Colony of similar size and importance.

The marked improvement in the local conditions may, I think, be mainly ascribed to the following causes:—Higher prices realised for their products by the fruit growers, who have benefited by the damage caused by repeated frosts to the orange groves of their competitors in Florida; the increased value of sponge, which is the main product of the Colony; the recent establishment of a winter mail service with Florida, which has resulted in bringing a vastly increased number of American tourists and visitors to Nassau; and, lastly, the almost continued presence in our port during the troubles in Cuba, of at least one of Her Majesty's ships of war, whose officers and crews necessarily place a certain amount of money in circulation.

As far as can be judged at present, the prospects of the Colony are very encouraging. The sisal industry is being invigorated by the recent rise in prices, and the 20,000 acres now under cultivation will shortly multiply ten-fold the Colony's output of fibre. The peasant proprietors are planting out numbers of small orange groves and fields of pineapples, and are turning their attention to the provision of early vegetables

for the winter markets of the north. Land and houses have risen considerably in value, and negotiations are now in favourable train for the immediate erection in Nassau of a great hotel, which will contain not less than 340 bed-rooms, and which will form the latest extension of the remarkable system of palatial hotels that are connected with the Florida East Coast Railway. It is estimated that no less than 100,000 tourists travel every winter from the Northern States to Florida, and by means of the handsome mail service which the Colony has subsidized to run three times a week during the season between Nassau and Miami, it is hoped that a portion of this wealth-distributing stream may be diverted to the Bahamas, where the climate and natural attractions are far superior to anything offered by Florida.

HESKETH BELL,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

July 28th 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1, 2, & 3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 277.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 238.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[Cd. 3.] *Price* 3*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
247	Grenada	1897
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar	1898

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacon.
12	Anguilla	Report on Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 277.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 238.)

ACTING GOVERNOR CHURCHILL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Nassau,

12th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1898, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

J. S. CHURCHILL

Administrator.

3222—800—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

BAHAMAS, 1898.

REPORT ON THE BAHAMAS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

1. The total receipts for the year 1898 amounted to £86,759 17*s.* 4*d.*, made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue from taxation and other ordinary sources	74,367	7	8
Sale of Government property ...	12,377	6	10
Interest on investment of surplus funds	15	2	10

2. Of the ordinary revenue the sum of £63,570 14*s.* 9*d.* was derived from Customs duties, the largest yield from that source recorded for many years past, and exceeding that of the previous year by £10,114 16*s.* 9*d.*, and that of the year 1896 by £8,097.

3. £12,500 was received from the Florida East Coast Railway and Hotel Company ; £10,000 as the price of the Victoria Hotel belonging to the Colonial Government and now bought by the Company, and £2,500 as a consideration for the loss of the police barracks on Fleeming Square, where the new hotel is in course of erection, which has obliged the Colonial Government to build new police barracks on another site at an estimated cost of £4,500.

4. The above-mentioned sum was reduced by the cost of remittance to the Crown Agents for investment, and the law costs for conveyance of the property, leaving as the net receipts the sum of £12,377 6*s.* 10*d.*

5. The following comparative statement shows that the revenue for the past year exceeded that of the year 1897 by £11,613 5*s.* 7*d.*, the excess being attributable almost entirely to increased Customs receipts:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, 1897 and 1898.

BAHAMAS, 1898.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1897.	Amount Collected in 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. *Customs—Duties on Imports*	53,455 18 0	63,570 14 9
Port and harbour dues :		
Tonnage dues	606 3 10	540 1 6
Light dues	49 12 3	93 7 1
Wharfage	36 4 7	38 13 11
2. *Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified :—*		
Taxes :		
Dog	0 11 0	6 10 0
Horse and carriage	191 10 0	166 10 0
House property	787 19 7	1,228 1 8
Fire policies	38 16 9	40 5 3
Auction	115 13 6	104 8 7
Licences :		
Auctioneers	24 6 8	19 18 4
Dray and drivers	30 8 0	50 12 0
Liquor	743 3 0	1,049 12 0
Apothecaries	60 0 0	60 0 0
Hackney carriages	51 15 0	76 15 0
Miscellaneous :		
Fines and forfeitures	613 1 8	704 17 11
Warehouse charges	71 16 2	112 2 10
Market rates and tolls	465 5 9	485 4 4
Carried forward ...	57,342 5 9	68,347 15 2

REVENUE, 1897 AND 1898.

Increase.			Decrease.			Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
(a) 10,114	16	9	—			(a) The value of flour and some other merchandize went up during the war, and the *ad valorem* duties were proportionately increased ; also alcoholic liquors were imported in larger quantities.
—			66	2	4	
(b) 43	14	10	—			(b) Steam vessels are exempt from tonnage dues but subject to light dues, therefore the increased use of steam vessels tends to increase one class of receipts and diminish the other.
2	9	4	—			
5	19	0	—			
—			(c) 25	0	0	(c) Street cabs were licensed under Act 60 Vict., cap. 23, and were exempted from Horse and Carriage Tax.
(cx) 440	2	1	—			(cx) The House Tax collection was allowed to get into arrears in 1897, and the arrears of that year went to swell the receipts of 1898.
1	8	6	—			
—			11	4	11	
—			4	8	4	
20	4	0	—			
(d) 306	9	0	—			(d) Liquor traffic developed and more licences taken out.
—			—			
25	0	0	—			
(e) 91	16	3	—			(e) Increase of fines imposed for breach of laws regulating sale of liquors.
(f) 40	6	8	—			(f) Increased charges at Inagua consequent upon the increase of goods for Hayti bonded in transit at Inagua.
19	18	7	—			
11,112	5	0	106	15	7	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1897.	Amount Collected in 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	57,342 5 9	68,347 15 2
3. *Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Purposes, and Reimbursements in Aid :—*		
Fees of Office...	734 8 7	435 9 7
Storage of gunpowder	11 18 1	6 11 1
Reimbursements in aid	331 5 11	774 17 4
Probate duty...	6 14 0	128 16 9
4. *Post Office and Telegraphs :—*		
Post Office revenue	2,430 7 8	2,165 16 5
Telegraph receipts	925 1 2	1,590 4 10
5. *Rents from Government Property :—*		
Bank premises	50 0 0	50 0 0
Frederick Street abutment	20 0 0	20 0 0
Royal Victoria Hotel	300 0 0	400 0 0
Ice House	180 0 0	100 0 0
Officers' quarters	59 3 4	54 11 8
Rent of rooms R. V. Hotel...	7 10 0	—
6. *Contributions to Widows' and Orphans' Fund:—*		
Sundry persons	210 0 4	226 9 6
7. *Miscellaneous Receipts :—*		
Petty receipts and unforeseen items of revenue.	67 4 9	66 15 4
Salary of Agricultural Inspector paid from Treasury and refunded by His Excellency the Governor.	78 2 6	—
	62,754 2 1	74,367 7 8
Sale of Government property	—	12,377 6 10
Interest on investments	—	15 2 10
Total ...	62,754 2 1	86,759 17 4

6. The expenditure of the year amounted to £64,148 8*s.* 5*d.*, and lishments was not increased, and the outlay on institutions was incurred chiefly for public works.

REVENUE, 1897 AND 1898—*continued.*

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
11,112 5 0	106 15 7	
—	(*g*) 298 19 0	(*g*) By a change in the law probate duties were made payable direct into the Treasury.
—	5 7 0	
(*h*) 443 11 5	—	(*h*) Unexpended balances refunded.
(*i*) 122 2 9	—	(*i*) *See* remarks as to "Fees of Office" above.
—	(*j*) 264 11 3	(*j*) Decrease in sales of stamps to dealers.
(*k*) 665 3 8	—	(*k*) Increased use of cable for messages and reports caused by Spanish-American war.
—	—	
—	—	
(*l*) 100 0 0	—	(*l*) Rent raised.
—	(*m*) 80 0 0	(*m*) Rent lowered.
—	4 11 8	
—	7 10 0	
16 9 2	—	
—	0 [illegible] 5	
—	78 [illegible] 2 6	
12,459 12 0	846 6 5	
12,377 6 10	—	
15 2 10	—	
24,852 1 8	846 6 5	

exceeded that of 1897 by £743 3*s.* 0*d.*, but the cost of the establ- maintained at the usual level, the increased expenditure having been

BAHAMAS, 1898.

7. The following comparative statement will show the expenditure in the

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Service.	Expenditure, 1897.	Expenditure, 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt ...	8,384 16 5	7,935 10 8
2. Pensions, Treasury	1,949 14 2	2,084 17 2
3. Pensions, Widows' and Orphans' Fund ...	2,284 0 6	2,264 17 1
4. House of Assembly	643 6 4	716 12 3
5. Legislative Council	71 13 4	70 0 0
6. Governor and Staff	1,503 12 7	1,249 7 0
7. Colonial Secretary's Department	1,238 10 9	1,098 10 6
8. Receiver-General's Department	2,942 8 9	3,064 6 0
9. Judicial Department...	5,896 3 6	6,185 13 9
10. Registrar's Department	489 6 6	494 19 0
11. Constabulary and Police	5,549 11 8	5,316 2 7
11A. Fire Department	329 1 5	181 14 2
12. Surveyor-General's Department	321 13 4	325 3 2
13. Audit Department	350 0 0	350 0 0
14. Post Office Department	5,423 8 1	5,319 10 11
15. Telegraph and Telephone Department ...	1,197 1 2	1,182 2 5
16. Ecclesiastical Establishment	898 13 4	757 0 0
17. Education Department	4,750 0 0	4,750 0 0
Carried forward ...	44,222 11 10	43,346 6 8

for 1898 and the preceding year, under the several headings employed Blue Book :—

EXPENDITURE, 1897 AND 1898.

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase and Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
—	(a) 449 5 9	(a) Interest on £6,000 loan not paid in 1898, and less paid for sinking fund for £5,000 loan.
(b) 135 13 0	—	(b) New pensioners.
—	19 3 5	
(c) 73 5 11	—	(c) Increase in election expenses, and expenses of extra session of Legislature in 1898.
—	1 13 4	
—	(d) 254 5 7	(d) No travelling expenses paid in 1898.
—	(e) 140 0 3	(e) Salary of December 1896 paid in 1897 : the cost of Government cablegrams was much reduced.
(f) 121 17 3	—	(f) Personal allowance to T. V. Matthews, under 61 Vict., cap. 29, and more tidewaiters temporarily engaged.
(g) 289 10 3	—	(g) Increase in fees and allowances to witnesses.
5 12 6	—	
—	(h) 233 9 1	(h) A money allowance was substituted for rations, reducing expense.
—	(i) 147 7 3	(i) Cost of uniforms for Fire Brigades in 1897.
3 9 10	—	
—	—	
—	(j) 103 17 2	(j) Reduction in subsidy of Ward Line.
—	14 18 9	
—	(k) 141 13 4	(k) Retirement of Rector, St. Philips, Inagua.
—	—	
629 8 9	1,505 13 11	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Service.	Expenditure, 1897.	Expenditure, 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	44,222 11 10	43,346 6 8
18. Public Libraries	230 11 8	380 0 0
19. Port and Marine Department	1,163 7 3	1,210 14 2
20. Medical Department	817 6 0	801 0 9
21. Charitable Institutions	5,156 6 6	5,494 19 9
22. Prisons...	1,700 3 0	1,808 16 8
23. Public Works...	6,644 4 1	7,754 10 4
24. Miscellaneous...	1,694 12 4	1,657 4 0
	61,629 2 8	62,453 12 4
Surplus Monies Act	1,776 2 9	1,694 16 1
Erection of new Barracks	—	723 12 3
Investment on account :		
Surplus Funds	—	5,968 0 4
„ „ Hotel Fund	—	7,382 15 10
Total	63,405 5 5	78,222 16 10

EXPENDITURE, 1897 AND 1898—*continued.*

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase and Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
629 8 9	1,505 13 11	
(*l*) 149 8 4	—	(*l*) Expenditure on libraries increased by extra grants to Nassau Public Library, and grant in 1897 paid in 1898 to Green Turtle Cay Library.
47 6 11	—	
—	16 5 3	
(*m*) 338 13 3	—	(*m*) Amount paid for completion of new Lunatic Ward in 1898.
(*n*) 108 13 8	—	(*n*) Increase in expenses for clothing in 1898.
(*o*) 1,110 6 3	—	(*o*) Increased expenditure on roads and works of £278 at New Providence, of £224 at Governor's Harbour, of £200 at Harbour Island, of £140 at San Salvador, and generally through the out-islands.
—	37 8 4	
2,383 17 2	1,559 7 6	
—	81 6 8	
723 12 3	—	
5,968 0 4	—	
7,382 15 10	—	
16,458 5 7	1,640 14 2	

BAHAMAS, 1898.

8. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for each year of the quinquennial period ending 31st December 1898 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	47,491 9 9	57,236 9 2
1895	55,642 11 4	55,758 0 6
1896	65,126 9 11	60,134 16 0
1897	62,754 2 1	63,405 5 5
1898	74,382 10 6	64,148 8 5

9. It will be observed that in 1894 there was a deficit of nearly £10,000; and this deficit was met in 1895 by a considerable increase in the import duties, not only specific duties but by increasing the *ad valorem* duties from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent.

10. At the same time £6,000 was raised on loan to be repaid at short date—now nearly expired—and expenditure was reduced to £55,758 by the postponement of all public works until the ensuing year.

11. These measures were successful in producing the desired equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, but in the course of the past year, owing to an abnormal increase in imports, the receipts from import duties have risen so largely that a surplus of more than £10,000 has been the result.

12. A reduction in the tariff of import duties has been carried out by legislation this year (1899), calculated to provide against the repetition of so large a surplus in future.

13. The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities on 31st December 1898 :—

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash in chest	10,102	2	7	On current accounts				1,737	9	1
Balance in hands of Out-island Collectors in transit.	244	8	4	Savings Bank—due to depositors	10,407	5	5			
Balance in hand of Crown Agents	1,628	17	6		8	11	7			
Balance in hand of Crown Agents on account of Hotel Fund.	794	11	0					10,415	17	0
Remittance in transit to Crown Agents	1,000	0	0	Loans—under Act 51 Vict., cap. 9				48,126	0	2
Investments on account of Surplus Funds ...	5,968	0	4							
Investments on account of Hotel Fund	7,382	15	10							
Savings Bank—invested	10,396	0	9							
Savings Bank—balance cash in office, £5 17*s.* 9*d.* : in bank £121 11*s.* 2*d.*	127	8	11							
Cable Repair Fund—invested	5,409	1	1							
Cable Repair Fund—cash	4	2	4							
Total	43,057	8	8	Total				60,279	6	3

Public Debt.

14. The public debt amounts to £118,426.

15. A loan of £30,000 was raised in 1892 for laying a telegraph cable between Nassau and Florida, but this is the only portion of the debt incurred for the purpose of supplying expenditure on remunerative objects.

16. The bulk of the indebtedness has been caused by financial embarrassments, the necessity in 1866 for relieving distress caused by a hurricane, and the failure in 1885 of the Government Bank.

BAHAMAS, 1898.

17. The various loans have been at times consolidated, and the follow-

Debt.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.
£ s. d. 29,300 0 0	Various persons.	£4 10*s.* per cent.	In 1885—The failure of the Nassau Public Bank to liquidate certain claims against the Government.
48,126 0 2	Various persons.	£4 per cent.	In 1888—For the purpose of reducing outstanding Debentures which had from time to time been issued within these Islands.
30,000 0 0	Various persons.	£4 per cent.	January 1892—Telegraph communication between the Bahamas Islands and parts beyond the limits of the Colony.
5,000 0 0	Various persons.	£5 per cent.	1894.
6,000 0 0	—	£3 per cent.	1896.
£118,426 0 2			

ing statement shows their exact amount and provision for repayment :—

Provisions for payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and enactments by which it is made.	Amount of original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Principal and interest secured from General Revenue and Assets of the Colony. The interest on the total nominal amount of Debentures issued under the Act and the Sinking Fund (10*s.* per centum on original debt) are paid half-yearly to the Crown Agents, and by them used in payment of the interest on outstanding Debentures, expenses of advertisements, &c., and the remainder invested by them and applied towards reducing the debts either by purchase in the open market or by annual drawings. (48 & 49 Vict., cap. 24.)	35,000 0 0	600 0 0	By proceeds of Sinking Fund.
Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury. Debentures redeemable 35 years after their respective dates.	48,126 0 2		
£630 per annum paid out of Treasury to Crown Agents towards the Sinking Fund. Interest payable quarterly. (55 Vict., cap. 1.)	30,000 0 0		
57 Vict., cap. 13	10,000 0 0		
58 Vict., cap. 1. £872 per annum paid out of the Public Treasury towards the Sinking Fund.	6,000 0 0		

Currency.

18. All accounts are kept and business transacted in terms of British sterling.

19. The coinage which passes from hand to hand in daily use is chiefly silver and copper coin of Great Britain, with notes of the Bank of Nassau for £1 and smaller denominations.

20. In the tourist season a great deal of American coin is brought into circulation, the quarter dollar passing current at one shilling sterling.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

21. The prosperous condition of Colonial industries and agriculture has given an impetus to trade which is most manifest in the increased imports of all classes of goods which are in demand at Nassau and throughout the Islands.

22. Almost all such goods, with the exception of alcoholic liquors and tobacco, are articles of prime necessity either as food or clothing, and are supplied, as regards flour and other food-stuffs, from America; and as regards hardware, clothing, and manufactured articles of all kinds, in certain relative proportions which do not appear to vary much, from both England and America.

23. A perusal of the following tabular statement will show of what the articles forming the imports of the Colony chiefly consist, and the increased imports of each kind of article in 1898 as compared with those of the previous year (1897):—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of IMPORTS for the YEARS 1897 and 1898.

Article.	Value of Imports, 1897.	Value of Imports, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Malt liquors	1,507	1,649	142	—
Spirituous liquors	3,536	4,625	1,089	—
Wines...	812	793	—	19

Comparative Statement of Imports for the Years 1897 and 1898—*continued.*

Article.	Value of Imports, 1897.	Value of Imports, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Cotton, woollen, linen and silk goods.	39,436	53,430	13,994	—
Earthenware and glassware, &c.	26,460	33,711	7,251	—
Hardware, &c.	3,882	9,192	5,310	
Preserved fruit, fish, meats, &c.	10,483	11,228	745	—
Flour	25,417	28,880	3,463	—
Salt provisions	7,392	9,563	2,171	—
Butter and cheese	5,267	5,757	490	—
Corn meal and hominy ...	5,682	6,964	1,282	—
Rice	6,338	7,300	962	—
Lard	1,939	2,239	300	—
Fresh meat and vegetables	1,480	1,023	—	457
Cigars and tobacco ...	4,394	4,385	—	9
Tea	452	637	185	—
Coffee	2,000	1,964	—	36
Lumber	3,633	5,752	2,119	—
Shingles	1,075	1,167	92	—
Sugar	6,577	7,819	1,242	—
Soap	1,147	1,325	178	—

24. It will be observed that nearly every kind of article has been imported in larger quantities during the past year, except in the instances of fresh meat and vegetables.

25. Fresh meat was recently placed upon the list of exemptions in the interest of the Florida East Coast Company, who are now building a large hotel in Nassau, but duties are still levied upon

fresh vegetables, and upon imported cattle and sheep, with the intention of fostering the local industries of stock-raising and market gardening, but with no appreciable effect up to the present except upon the consumer who pays a higher market price for an inferior article, an artificial scarcity of which is also maintained.

26. A reference to the following tabular return will show the kind of articles of English manufacture which are imported to some extent by the Nassau dealers, and it will be observed that in the case of cotton, woollen, linen, and silk fabrics there is a marked preference for English goods, whilst in the other classes mentioned in the return the trade is stationary or declining, the increased imports of 1898 being all in favour of American trade.

27. Where, however, such small sums are being dealt with it is necessary to point out that the mere furnishing of a single hotel last year by the Florida East Coast Company would naturally swell the amount of American imports for that year, and to that extent the returns of 1898 must be regarded as exceptional.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the VALUE of IMPORTS in CERTAIN CLASSES of GOODS from the UNITED STATES and UNITED KINGDOM respectively for the YEARS 1897 and 1898.

Article.	1897.		1898.	
	United Kingdom.	United States.	United Kingdom.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
Textile fabrics	19,717	19,576	27,676	25,365
Earthenware	6,915	19,233	6,137	26,512
Tinware	1,308	2,574	1,936	7,199
Preserved fruits, &c. ...	3,686	6,333	3,541	7,327

Exports.

28. The exports of the Bahamas consist chiefly of pine-apples and other fruit, sisal hemp, salt, and sponge.

29. The total exports for 1898 were valued at £174,860, of which £159,919 was the produce of the Colony.

30. Sponge far exceeds in importance all other products of the Bahamas, and has in recent years been gathered and exported in increasing quantities.

31. The subjoined tabular return shows the value of the principal exports in 1898 as compared with those of the previous year (1897):—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of EXPORTS for the YEARS 1897 and 1898:—

Article.	Value of Exports, 1897.	Value of Exports, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	£	
Pine-apples ...	24,581	24,360	—	221	The fruit trade is reviving.
Oranges and other fruit.	7,072	5,469	—	1,603	
Sisal hemp ...	4,522	14,710	10,188		
Bark and hard-woods.	2,199	2,314	115	—	
Salt	1,501	800	—	701	The salt trade is dying out.
Sponge	90,111	97,512	7,401	—	

32. There has been a steady expansion in the volume of trade during the quinquennial period 1894 to 1898, inclusive, as will be seen from the following return of total imports and exports.

33. This is particularly noticeable as regards exports; and, as regards imports, since 1896, the influx of tourists during the winter season, and the operations of the East Coast Florida Railway and Hotel Company in running steamers and opening hotels, are accountable for the large but not uniform yearly increase.

BAHAMAS, 1898.

RETURN of TOTAL IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the FIVE YEARS 1894 to 1898 INCLUSIVE :—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Value of Total Imports and Exports.
	£	£	£
1894	174,969	119,378	294,347
1895	172,581	124,011	296,592
1896	194,774	138,972	333,746
1897	186,010	149,085	335,095
1898	238,336	174,860	413,196

34. Trade with British Colonies or other countries than America and England is quite insignificant, and the extent of the trade with these two countries respectively, and the proportionate increase in the trade with each during 1898 will be best illustrated by the following statement :—

RETURN SHOWING VOLUME of TRADE with the UNITED KINGDOM and UNITED STATES RESPECTIVELY for the YEARS 1897 and 1898.

Year.	United Kingdom.			United States.		
	Total Imports therefrom.	Total Exports thereto.	Total.	Total Imports therefrom.	Total Exports thereto.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1897 ...	46,228	13,609	59,837	130,993	107,630	238,623
1898 ...	59,009	29,727	88,736	170,766	104,900	275,666

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Fruit Growing.

35. The cultivation of pine-apples and oranges for export remains to-day, as it always has been in the past, the least precarious of the Colonial industries.

36. Quite recently the produce of the sea in sponge, turtle, and other shell fish has far outstripped in value the produce of the land, but only a very few years ago the value of the fruit export was about equal to that of sponge, and that it will become so again is highly probable, as the altered conditions of the market have nearly doubled the price given for fruit and thus provided the incentive for increased activity in planting fresh areas and for the increased use of fertilizers and better cultivation generally.

37. When Governor Rawson wrote his comprehensive report on the Bahamas in 1864 a large proportion of the pine-apple crop was still being shipped annually to England, the first cargo having been despatched in 1842, and notwithstanding a transit of 28 or 29 days the shipments constantly arrived at the London market in a saleable condition, and if the loss from decay did not exceed 30 per cent. the transaction yielded a profit, but the loss sometimes amounted to 75 per cent., and sometimes the whole cargo was destroyed.

38. Since Governor Rawson's time the trade has been directed entirely to the port of New York, and was until last year carried on by sailing vessels, the fruit being shipped in bulk.

39. The method employed in gathering and in shipment of the fruit being so dilatory, and prices at the same time falling very low, the cultivators became quite disheartened at the losses which followed, and a period of depression set in from which this industry is only just now emerging.

40. That it has never quite gone back to its primitive state may be gathered from the fact that the quantities and value of pines exported last year in a period of marked depression still much exceeded the average quantity and value of the exports during a period of ten years from 1855 to 1864, a period described by Governor Rawson as of constantly increasing production, as may be seen in the following statement :—

—	Quantity.	Value.
	Dozens.	£
Average of the ten years from 1855 to 1864.	172,827	18,176
Year 1898	341,468	24,360

41. The values in Governor Rawson's decennial period varied to a surprising extent, ranging from 3*s.* 5*d.* per dozen in 1855 to as low as 1*s.* 1*d.* per dozen in 1859.

42. At present the prices in the field are from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 1*d.* per dozen; nearly double the prices of last year.

43. The altered conditions of the market to which I have alluded above have been caused by inclement seasons in the Florida peninsula, amounting almost to a change of climatic conditions much more unfavourable to agriculture than any formerly known.

44. The winter frosts which have ruined the Florida fruit industry never reach the pine-apple fields or orange groves of the Bahamas, and the destruction of the Florida crops has, of course, given an impetus to the Bahamas fruit trade by increasing the demand for Bahamas fruit and so raising prices.

45. As long as the Florida industry was flourishing the protective duty in favour of Florida and California of one cent a pound on oranges and 75 cents per 100 pounds on pines was an almost impassable barrier to the sale of Bahamas fruit in New York at any price affording a fair profit, but with the present enhanced prices these duties are easily supported.

46. That the present prosperous conditions of the fruit trade may again be altered for the worse seems almost certain, for the competition of Florida must shortly be exchanged for that of Cuba and Porto Rico, whose large area and fertile soil could furnish the whole supply of sugar and tropical fruits required by the American people.

47. The Island of Eleuthera, always the principal, is now almost the only locality where this industry is flourishing, although it is still carried on with perseverance at Long Island.

48. It possesses the kind of soil which experience has proved to be best adapted for the growth of the pine-apple, viz., the red clay, and there is easy access from the fields to the seashore.

49. Some pine-apple land at Eleuthera has recently been sold for the excessively high price of £60 per acre.

50. The land is generally farmed out to the cultivators on the metayer system: the pines being planted irregularly in the fields, as many as 12,000 or 14,000 plants to the acre.

51. After trials of many different varieties the Red Spanish has been found to be best suited to the soil and climate.

52. The fruit was formerly taken to New York in schooners and shipped in bulk, but is now being shipped in steam vessels, and the superior practice of packing in crates is gaining ground with the shippers.

53. A new feature in the trade is that the S.S. Cocoa of the Florida East Coast Company is now taking cargoes at Eleuthera for carriage over the Florida East Coast Railway line to St. Louis and Chicago.

54. If this venture, which at present is only tentative, should result in the opening of new markets for the fruit trade it will be productive of marked and permanent benefit to the Colony.

Oranges and Citrous Fruits.

55. The crop of oranges and other citrous fruits is gathered between October and March; there are no improved varieties and no attempt is made to increase the bearing capacity of the trees by cultivation.

56. Nevertheless, the fruit is well flavoured and finds an extensive sale in America; large quantities having been shipped lately to Canada, and to the Western States over the Florida East Coast Railway.

57. The fruit called pomelo and sometimes grape fruit, from its habit of growing in clusters (*citrus aurentium pomelanus*), which formerly had no marketable value, has within three or four years been established as a prime favourite in the United States, and now fetches a hundred and forty-five dollars the thousand.

58. Ninety per cent. of the trees in the Bahamas are infested by the red scale, but, through the carelessness of proprietors of orange groves, there is little prospect of its ever being eradicated or of the escape of any new plantations by the limitation of its sphere of invasion.

Sisal Hemp.

59. The sisal hemp industry has had another windfall in the shape of high prices, caused most likely by the scarcity of Manila hemp owing to the insurrection in the Philippines, but only some estates have advanced so far as to have sufficient quantities of leaves fit for cutting to enable them to take full advantage of the boom.

60. The growing of the sisal plant by peasant proprietors with a view to selling the leaves to the companies in possession of the cleaning plant is still to be found in active operation at Rum Cay and Watling's Island, where some fine plants are to be seen. It is cleaned by hand and sold on the spot for three cents a pound.

61. The industry is now in the hands of a very few companies viz.:—The Bahamas (Inagua) Sisal Fibre Company—Mr. Mo[illegible] manager—which has absorbed the San Salvador Company [illegible]d the Monroe Fibre Company; the Sisal Fibre Company, u[illegible]er the management of Mr. A. H. Nield, which leases the Island of Little Abaco; and the J. S. Johnson Company (American), which is managed by Mr. W. C. B. Johnson, and is the most important of all by the extent of its operations, owning land in the Islands of Abaco, Andros, and New Providence.

62. Besides these three principal companies, there are also the Marguerite Company (American), in Andros Island—Mr. Collins, manager—and the firm of Clough & Menendez in New Providence.

63. The future prospects of this industry depend upon the chances of obtaining steady and remunerative prices for fibre, in place of the extreme fluctuations of price which make the industry at one time wholly unremunerative and at another time offer a golden harvest to all who can get any of their fibre ready for market.

Stock-raising.

64. The traditions of a time when this was a considerable industry still hold sway in the public mind, and are perceptible in the persistence with which protective duties are levied on foreign live stock.

65. But as long ago as 1864, Governor Rawson reported the industry to be nearly extinct. He wrote: "The breeding and feeding of horned cattle, horses, and sheep was formerly carried on to a considerable extent in some of the Islands, viz.:—Long Island, Exuma, St. Salvador, Rum Cay, Watling's Island, and Crooked Island, and the market of Nassau was well supplied with Colonial meat, but this has ceased to be the case. Cattle for slaughtering are imported from Cuba and Florida. Mutton is very scarce in the Nassau Market."

66. To account in some measure for its decline he states: "The decrease in the rearing of cattle and sheep is attributed in a great measure to the want of fences and protection, which led to the destruction of the latter by dogs and of the former by persons on whose grounds they trespassed, or by their owners to avoid the annoyance to which their frequent trespasses gave rise."

67. In connection with the agricultural industry of pine-apple growing, it should be mentioned that the business of canning pine-apples for export has assumed much larger dimensions.

68. In addition to the J. S. Johnson Company, which has carried on this business for several years, and whose goods have obtained quite a reputation in the United States there are now two additional factories established at Governor's Harbour in Eleuthera.

69. Cases holding about twenty tins each were exported in 1898 to the number of 35,629, valued at £5,347, the export of the previous year having been only 21,110 cases, valued at £3,979.

SALT RAKING.

70. This industry, which was once flourishing and absorbed a large amount of capital for the improvement of the ponds and laying down of tramway lines, is now decadent.

71. The salt ponds at Inagua, Rum Cay, Exuma, Long Island, and other places are still as they were in Governor Rawson's time (1864), and with the occasional help of the Government are kept in condition to produce salt, but the price is too low to pay for working them.

72. The average annual output for the ten years 1855 to 1864 was 356,239 bushels, valued at £8,711. Last year the output was 48,400 bushels, valued at £800.

SPONGE.

73. The gathering of sponges in the shallow waters surrounding these Islands, the preparation of them for the market, and finally their export to foreign countries is by far the greatest industry of which the Colony can boast; and, furthermore, it is satisfactory to be able to state that the sponge beds show no signs of exhaustion, and the demand keeps constantly in excess of the supply.

74. By what is evidently a wise enactment dredging has always been absolutely prohibited, and the sponges are gathered by means of two-pronged forks attached to staves 25 feet to 28 feet in length, and, after being cleaned, are brought to the Sponge Exchange in Nassau where they are sold by auction, being divided into seven classes according to their relative coarseness or other peculiarities.

75. In 1898 the export of sponge to the United Kingdom amounted to 292,967 pounds weight, valued at £27,275, and to the United States to 691,168 pounds weight, valued at £33,187, and the total export was 1,207,683 pounds weight, valued at £97,512.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

76. Governor Rawson, writing in 1864, states that "of the total area, amounting to 2,831,680 acres, only 300,691 acres have been granted. In the return of surveys from the several Islands two-thirds of the extent is estimated as fit for cultivation. Of the several Islands, exclusive of Andros, Inagua, and Mayaguana, and comprising an area of 1,387,840 acres, 82,893 acres or about seven per cent. are estimated to be water."

BAHAMAS, 1898.

77. On the same authority it may be stated briefly that previously to 1833 the Crown lands were granted on quit rents of two shillings per hundred acres, but in 1833 His Majesty's Government directed that Crown lands should only be disposed of by public sale, and at the same time 95,718 acres, principally situated in the Islands of San Salvador, Abaco, Andros, and Crooked Island, were escheated to the Crown for non-payment of quit rents.

78. Since that time the Crown lands have always, with the exception of occasional free grants, been either sold at public auction or offered for sale by tender, any offer for land being submitted to the Governor and if approved accepted by him, the Surveyor General advising as to the value of the land and other matters affecting the transfer of the land from the Crown to the purchaser.

79. Prices vary greatly according to the supposed value of different lands, ranging last year from 4*s.* 11*d.* to 9*s.* 9*d.* per acre, and many of the portions sold are very small, some of them being the fourth or half of an acre only.

80. In 1898 there were 129 sales of small portions of land in various Islands, making up a total average 768¼ acres, and one larger sale of 713 acres for which £130 was tendered and accepted, but of the 713 acres only 500 were considered worth anything, the rest being swamp.

81. After the lapse of thirty-five years the number of acres granted or sold is not greatly in excess of what it was in 1864, being reported as 349,484¾ acres in 1898 as compared with 300,691 acres in 1864, and leaving a total number of acres remaining ungranted of 1,768,853½.

82. As to the general value of lands still in possession of the Crown the Surveyor-General reports as follows:—"It is not possible to put a value on the ungranted Crown lands of the Colony, as the greater part are not saleable unless we can find some remunerative product that will grow on pine barren. When the sisal industry was first introduced it was erroneously supposed that it would succeed on pine barren, and then we calculated the assets of the Crown in Bahamas land by the million.

"No complete surveys have ever been undertaken by the Crown to ascertain where and in what quantity good Crown land can be found.

"Good vacant land exists in small patches in Andros, Abaco, Inagua, Mayaguana, and Acklins.

"In the other Islands a few small tracts of 20 acres may be found fairly good, but nearly the whole will be found either sold or absolutely barren rock and swamp.

"There are many square miles of vacant land at Andros and Abaco consisting of pine barren."

SHIPPING.

83. The shipping returns for the Bahamas, if accepted without explanation as indicating the activity or sluggishness of trade between the Colony and other countries, would be misleading, because they are affected by certain accidental and temporary conditions, as I shall endeavour to make clear.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBERS and TONNAGE of SAILING SHIPS ENTERED and CLEARED in 1898 and 1897.

Nationality.	1898.				1897.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	216	13,814	220	14,518	191	12,653	196	11,821
American ...	73	10,609	74	9,994	123	17,179	121	17,645
Spanish ...	5	102	5	102	—	—	—	—
Haytien ...	76	1,452	74	1,396	76	1,612	76	1,613
Dominican ...	4	53	4	53	2	20	2	20
Norwegian ...	1	346	1	346	1	235	1	235

84. In explanation of the above return it should be stated that the British sailing vessels to the number of 191 in 1897 and 216 in 1898 were principally schooners owned by people in the Colony with the exception of an occasional vessel putting in for orders or in distress.

85. On account of the Spanish-American war in 1898 the Colonial schooners were more frequently employed in the carrying trade.

86. The American sailing vessels to the number of 123 in 1897 and 73 in 1898 were principally the schooners of the three-masted type engaged in the fruit trade.

87. The falling off in their numbers in 1898 was due to the Spanish-American war, their place in the carrying trade of the Colony having been taken by Colonial schooners and steam vessels.

88. Besides the inter-insular traffic, sailing vessels are employed in the carrying trade between the Colony and the United States, Jamaica, Turks Island, Cuba, Hayti, and San Domingo and Canada.

89. Inagua, the most southern Island of the Bahamas group, is a port of entry, and the Haitien vessels which entered to the number of 76 in 1898 and to the same number exactly in the previous year were trading with that port.

90. So many steamers from New York *en route* to the Gulf Ports now call at Inagua for labourers that the inhabitants of that place can import their goods direct from New York and also make a profitable trade by exporting American goods to Hayti out of bond.

91. The Spanish vessels to the number of five in 1898 were employed in carrying refugees from Cuba.

92. The one Norwegian vessel reported in 1898 was a barque loaded with salt and put into Inagua in distress. The vessel of that nationality of 235 tons reported in 1897 brought coal from Cardiff for the Light House Department under the Board of Trade.

93. The San Domingo sailing vessels are small boats trading between Inagua and Hayti.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBERS and TONNAGE of STEAMERS ENTERED and CLEARED DURING 1898 and PRECEDING YEAR.

Nationality.	1898.				1897.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	101	181,240	101	181,240	71	90,615	71	90,613
American ...	84	133,233	83	130,810	73	120,402	72	116,902
German ...	24	26,516	24	25,890	22	17,820	22	17,820
Norwegian ...	10	4,851	10	4,633	1	506	1	506
Swedish ...	1	662	1	662	—	—	—	—

94. The only British steamer regularly engaged in trade between the Bahamas and other countries is the S.S. "Antilia," owned in Nassau, N.P., and trading between that port and the port of New York, and this steamer would enter and clear twelve or thirteen times annually.

95. Of American nationality are the steamers of the New York and Cuba line which call at Nassau every alternate Monday throughout the year, making a fortnightly service each way between Nassau and New York, whose entries at the port of Nassau therefore would number fifty-two.

96. In 1897 the Florida East Coast Company, under contract to run a steamer 45 times during the season of January to May between Miami and Nassau, engaged a British steamer for this traffic; but in 1898 their own steamer, built at Cramp's yard in Philadelphia, was put on this line, causing a transfer of 45 entries in the above return from British to American nationality in the years 1897 and 1898 respectively.

97. In 1898 more British steamers were employed on account of the war, some of which were chartered by the Ward Line in an endeavour to keep up to some extent their business connections with the port of Nassau, and British steamers more frequently stopped and came to an entry at Inagua or Long Cay to take in labourers, the demand for unskilled labour having been much increased by the war.

98. German steamers entered to the number of 22 in 1897, and 24 in 1898 at the ports of Inagua or Long Cay, Fortune Island, stopping for the purpose of engaging labourers, a practice which is of recent growth, to which further allusion will be made in this report.

99. The increase of nine in the number of Norwegian steamers entered is due to the employment of tramp steamers in 1898, fruit carrying, or in place of American steamers.

100. The subjoined return in tabular form shows the total number of ships and total tonnage, which is steadily progressive, during the past five years 1894 to 1898, but it does not necessarily ensue, as I have already pointed out, that the Bahamas Islands have greatly developed their commercial relations with the outside world; the increase being caused mostly by the steamers which come to an entry on their way to and from the Gulf Ports to engage and land labourers, and which by their numbers and especially by their comparatively large tonnage swell the returns.

BAHAMAS, 1898.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of TOTAL SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS for the LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total Number of Vessels.		Total Tonnage.		Total Vessels and Tonnage.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1894	438	431	173,248	168,635	869	341,883
1895	438	430	202,751	193,869	868	396,620
1896	490	494	217,719	218,859	984	436,578
1897	560	562	261,042	257,175	1,122	518,217
1898	595	597	371,878	369,644	1,192	741,522

LEGISLATION.

101. There were three sessions of the Legislature during the year, and forty-four Acts received the Governor's assent, of which the principal are those which give legislative authority for all the agreements made with the Florida East Coast Company for building hotels and providing steam communication between Nassau and Florida, viz., 61 Vict., caps. 1 and 2, and 61 & 62 Vict., cap. 24.

102. In addition to the above, special mention may be made of the following Act, viz., 61 & 62 Vict., cap. 28, "An Act to prohibit the purchase of fruit except under certain restrictions," which is an extension of the law against predial larceny; it imposes certain restrictions upon the indiscriminate sale and purchase of fruit, thus protecting the grower against thefts from fields and orchards, which have become very common simultaneously with the rise in value of that kind of produce. Similar legislation was found to be necessary in most of the West Indian Islands, where baskets of stolen cocoa, limes, or oranges could be brought into the towns and sold to dealers without any questions being asked.

103. Other Acts are concerned with the medical service, viz., 61 & 62 Vict., cap. 31, and 62 Vict., cap. 2, and by their enactments provision is made for the permanent establishment of a trained nursing staff at the asylum, and for the despatch of a medical officer to the out-islands whenever reports are received of the outbreak of disease. The officer named for this specially instituted service is the assistant medical officer of the asylum,

and the value of his services in this direction as well as in those of assistant surgeon at the hospital and visiting doctor amongst the pauper patients outside has been thoroughly demonstrated.

EDUCATION.

104. The difficulties inherent in the task of educating the children amongst a population divided into so many small, poor, and isolated communities—not the least of which difficulties is the indifference generally shown by the parents—are so apparent at first sight, and become so much more real and actual the closer they are looked at, that it is really gratifying to observe the energy and resolution with which they are confronted by the Board of Education and their secretary, who is also Inspector of Schools.

105. That the results obtained are better than might have been expected, and that they show a gradual improvement in this department, will, I think, be clearly shown by the following synopsis of the statistical portion of the Education Report laid before the Governor and Assembly, for 1898 :—

There are 44 schools wholly maintained out of the annual grant.

The number of pupils who attended at the above schools during some part of the year was 7,028.

The number of names on the registers at the end of the year was 5,998.

The average attendance was 4,050.

In addition to the 44 schools wholly supported by the Government there were 11 schools which received grants-in-aid.

The number of pupils who attended the above schools during some part of the year was 1,044.

The number of names on the registers at the end of the year was 981.

The average attendance was 632·3.

Combining both these classes of schools the numbers in 1898 show a marked increase over those of 1897, and as the numbers in 1897 were considerably above any previously reported the Inspector considers that education is making continuous progress.

	Increase in 1898.
Number of schools, 55	1
Pupils present at all during the year, 8,072 ...	238
Names on registers, 6,979	244
Average attendance, 4,682·4	141·9

The teaching staff last year consisted of 44 principal teachers, three assistant teachers, 13 pupil teachers, and 10 sewing mistresses.

There were also 12 teachers for the school receiving grants-in-aid.

Expenditure on Buildings.

At Long Bay Cay, Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama, and Rock Sound, Eleuthera, work was continued and buildings completed.

At Marsh Harbour, Abaco, a new school-house was built, and also a residence for the schoolmaster.

At Mastic Point and at Stanyard Creek, Andros Island, outbuildings were erected.

Houses for the residence of schoolmasters were acquired by purchase at Bogue, Free Town, and Long Bay Cays, and one is in course of erection at Spring Point.

	£	s.	d.
Average cost, inclusive of salaries, buildings, materials, &c., for each school	87	5	5
Average cost for each child...	0	11	10½
Average cost for each child on register ...	0	13	9
Average cost for each child in average attendance	1	0	6

The average number of days' work for all the schools during the year was 210.

There were 79 per cent. of passes in four test subjects.

106. The above represents all that comes within the purview of the Board of Education and the Inspector of Schools, but there are many schools quite independent of Government assistance or control respecting which it is extremely difficult to obtain any useful information, but which may be noted briefly as follows :—

Place.	Name.	Denomination.	Number on Register.	Average Attendance.
Nassau ...	St. Hilda's ...	Church of England	24	23
„ ...	St. Matthew's	„	76	38
„ ...	St. Mary's ...	„	85	68
„ ...	St. Agnes ...	„	132	60
„ ...	Woodcock ...	„	301	160
„ ...	Victoria ...	Wesleyan	No information.	
„ ...	St. Benedict's	Roman Catholic ...	343	272
„ ...	Bain's... ...	Undenominational	127	78

107. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese has been good enough to supply some information respecting Church primary schools throughout the Islands, to this effect: that there are 30 such schools with a total number of scholars of about 1,766. The Bishop writes: "I thought I had better mention this in case you should have overlooked our little schools which are to be found in nearly all the Islands, filling for the present gaps which the Board of Education has not filled, and ready to retire and give place to the Board whenever they are prepared to occupy the ground.

* * * * * * *

"Of course the teaching at these little bush schools is wretchedly inferior, but in truth some of the Government schools are not much better, and education generally is at a miserably low ebb in this Colony, chiefly owing to the indifference of the parents and the inert ill-nourished bodies of the poor little scholars."

108. The Bishop at the same time pays a high tribute of praise to the work done by the Inspector of Schools, and there is no doubt that the funds annually voted are put to the best possible use by the Board of Education.

109. There is scarcely any provision for secondary education in the proper sense of the term. The Nassau Diocesan Grammar School has 29 scholars, and the St. Andrew's School has 25 scholars; the latter has some connection with the College of Preceptors in England.

110. There are no industrial, technical, or agricultural schools in the Bahamas.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

111. The hospital, poor-house, lunatic asylum, and the asylum for lepers are all contained within a park of about twenty acres, and occupy the most healthy and agreeable site in the town of Nassau. A new building, of which the first stone was laid on the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee, is now completed and opened as an asylum for male lunatics. The building, which is of stone with two stories, is placed on the summit of a rising ground at the back of the hospital and has a large enclosure containing all the accessories necessary for the convenience and health of the patients, and has a wide view of sea and land on all sides.

112. The hospital returns for 1898 show that 140 persons were inmates at the close of 1897, of whom 74 were males and 66 females; during the year 1898, 400 persons were admitted, of whom 253 were males and 147 females; 298 patients were discharged during the year, of whom 197 were completely cured and 79 were relieved. The deaths numbered 100.

BAHAMAS, 1898.

113. The following table shows the number of cases of each kind of disease treated in the hospital in the year, with the number of deaths from each such disease:—

Diseases Treated.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
Enteric fever	1	—
Malarial fever	16	—
Syphilis	41	3
Phthisis	41	22
Leprosy	15	3
Rheumatism	40	—
Stomach and intestines	36	8
Of liver	2	1
Pleurisy and bronchitis	7	—
Of heart	17	11
Of kidneys	21	8
Of lymphatic system	9	—
Of nervous system	16	6
Of uterus	6	1
Of urethra and bladder	14	5
Of bones and joints	7	—
Hernia	5	—
New growths	19	4
Eye, ear, and throat	19	—
Ulcers and abscesses	18	—
Insanity	51	9
Old age and poverty	69	14
Accidents and injuries	31	3
No disease	7	—
General diseases	13	3
Other diseases	19	1

114. There were 17 admissions to the lunatic asylum during 1898 (13 male and 4 female), and 10 persons were discharged on recovery; there were 8 deaths during the year, and a coroner's inquest was held and a verdict returned in each case of death from natural causes. The daily average number in the asylum during 1898 was 31, of whom 15 were males and 16 females, classified as follows:—

	Males.	Females
1. Maniacal and dangerous	6	7
2. Quiet, chronic	8	4
3. Melancholy and suici'al	1	2
4. Idiotic, paralytic, epileptic	1	2

115. Four persons were admitted as lepers, and there were three deaths of lepers during the year.

116. At the close of the year the patients were distributed as follows:—

Lunatic Asylum	30
Leper Asylum	10
Infirmary	71
Victoria Hospital	31

117. Besides the admission to the infirmary of many poor people who are destitute and infirm, but not properly to be designated as hospital patients, there is a system of out-door relief conducted by the Commissioners of the Asylum, by which 85 paupers receive their subsistence in the Island of New Providence and 107 in the out-islands.

118. A very great improvement has been effected in the asylum by appointing an assistant surgeon and a trained nurse.

119. The subjoined tables show the number of admissions, discharges, and deaths for the six years from 1893 to 1898 inclusive, and also the numbers of new patients attended to in

the out-patients' department, and the number of prescriptions dispensed for the four years from 1895 to 1898 inclusive:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, and DEATHS, for the SIX YEARS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1898.

Year.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.
1893	254	142	75	139
1894	289	206	103	128
1895	331	233	93	133
1896	404	292	108	137
1897	427	341	83	140
1898	400	298	100	142

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBER of NEW PATIENTS and the NUMBER of PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED in the OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT for the LAST FOUR YEARS.

Year.	New Patients.	Prescriptions.
1895	4,628	12,081
1896	4,326	8,930
1897	3,191	6,291
1898	3,768	6,258

SAVINGS BANKS.

120. The Post Office Savings Bank is kept by the Postmaster and the Chief Clerk at the Post Office in Nassau, and the accounts and pass-books are regularly audited by the Auditor-General; deposits are limited to £200 for any one person and £40 in any single year. The following tabular statement will show the business transacted during the last two years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount of Deposits during Year.	Amount of Withdrawals during Year.	Total Amount at Credit of Depositors on 31st December.
		£	£	£
1897 ...	1,051	4,157	4,041	9,523
1898 ...	1,107	4,806	4,144	10,415

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

121. 425 persons were arrested by the police during the year in the act of committing offences of different classes of which the following may be specified:—"Cutting and wounding," 9; "assaults," 48; "assaults on the police," 37; "house-breaking," 4; "larceny," 71; "drunkenness," 78; "disorderly conduct and indecent language in the streets," 96. Of 55 warrants received by the police 48 were executed.

122. 495 persons were reported by the police for the commission of offences of the same class as those above-mentioned with the addition of breaches of police regulations for the conduct of street traffic, and 113 cases of turning out cattle and pigs to roam at large in the streets.

123. The number of offences reported to the police as distinct from the number of persons "apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate" is not recorded in the Blue Book returns, for either the public never contemplates the idea of reporting any criminal offences to the police unless it can at the same time name the offenders, or else the police note the reports but, failing to discover the perpetrators of the crimes

reported, keep no record; it is also very characteristic of the coloured people, who form almost the entire population throughout the West Indian Colonies, that, owing to their fear of each other and the innate distrust and dislike with which they regard all official authority, they seldom have recourse to the police unless actuated by revenge or in the heat of passion after some violent quarrel.

Prisons.

124. The prison at Nassau is one of the finest in the West Indies; built entirely of stone, with a height of two stories, it consists of a large central hall of oblong shape on each side of which are the prison rooms, 101 in number, access to which is obtained by iron galleries and spiral iron stairs, and the exceptionally cool condition produced by this style of building in a tropical climate is of great sanitary advantage, keeping the prisoners in good health and saving much suffering.

125. The total number of persons committed in 1898 was 209—men 140, women 66, and juveniles 3; 99 of these prisoners had been previously convicted, and 69 were habitual offenders, having been convicted thrice or more; the daily average number in prison was 52·71, and the daily average on the sick list 2·08. There were no deaths.

126. Except when meeting for work, exercise, education, or religious teaching, the prisoners are kept on the separate system, and the evils arising from the constant association which is and must perforce be allowed in prisons which are less architecturally commodious are avoided; but, notwithstanding this advantage, and the inducements to good behaviour offered by the system of reducing the prisoner's term of imprisonment in proportion to the number of good conduct marks which he is able to gain, the prison discipline is maintained only with difficulty and by having frequent recourse to punishments, as appears by the following extract from a report by the Inspector of Prisons:—

"The following punishments have been inflicted on persons undergoing imprisonment:—

Reprimands	4
Solitary confinement	50
Reversion of diet	7
Crank punishment	16
Forfeiture of industrial marks	2
Hair cropping	3
	82

"The number of minor punishments is in excess of the previous year, and is due to the conduct of some of the female prisoners who, knowing, as they themselves state, that they cannot be whipped, defy all authority. The difference in conduct between the male and female sides of the prison is remarkable; though on the male side no one has been whipped for over two years, yet the knowledge that the punishment is permissible has a most salutary effect."

Criminal Statistics.

127. The number of persons brought before the Magistrates' Courts in 1898 was 2,468, of whom 216 were discharged for want of prosecution, 392 acquitted, 43 committed for trial in the Superior Courts, and 1,817 were summarily convicted; the convictions included 365 cases of offences against person or property, the remaining 1,451 being breaches of the civil law, such as the compulsory clauses of the Education Act and Municipal or Police Regulations.

128. The nature of the punishments inflicted by the Magistrates and the numbers in each category for 1898 and the previous year may be gathered from the following comparative table :—

Year.	Fine.	Imprisonment in lieu of fine.	Peremptory Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Bound over with or without sureties.	Total.
1897 ...	1,186	174	118	57	236	1,771
1898 ...	1,257	151	127	76	206	1,817

129. With regard to trials in the Superior Courts the Attorney-General states the "calendar shows the cases to have been of the usual character and to call for no special mention in the January Sessions. In the April Sessions two informations for arson were preferred but verdicts of not guilty were returned.

"The information against Juan J. Jimenez in the July Sessions for an offence against Section 2 of the Foreign Enlistment Act was a case of exceptional interest and occupied the Court for several days, the jury upon the first trial failing to agree after being shut up for several hours. The second trial resulted in an acquittal.

"The defendant was charged with preparing or fitting out a Naval Expedition against the Republic of San Domingo, which the prosecution alleged was in part prepared or fitted out within Her Majesty's Dominions, *i.e.*, within this Colony."

In the October Sessions the cases were of the ordinary character.

130. The following comparative table, comprising the period of four years from 1895 to 1898, shows the number of persons brought before the Magistrates by arrest or summons, also of persons committed for trial in the Superior Courts, the numbers convicted of criminal offences, distinguishing offences against the person from those against property, and the number of convictions and acquittals in the Inferior and the Superior Courts :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	2,429	2,820	2,605	2,468
Number of summary convictions :—				
For offences against the person...	264	251	270	238
For predial larceny	42	46	33	48
For offences against property, other than predial larceny.	90	78	69	78
For other offences	1,243	1,584	1,399	1,451
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
For offences against the person...	10	11	5	13
For predial larceny	1	1	—	—
For offences against property, other than predial larceny.	7	20	7	20
For other offences	6	6	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
In the Inferior Courts	492	576	509	392
In the Superior Courts	17	14	17	16

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

131. The total population at the last census (1891) was 47,565, and in the past year reached a total of 53,787, showing an increase of 6,222 in the seven years 1892–1898, and an increase of 18,500 as compared with the figures of the census of 1861, which gave a total population of 35,287.

132. When Governor Rawson wrote his report in 1864 one-third of the whole population inhabited the Island of New Providence, viz., 11,503 out of 35,287, but at present the proportion is more favourable for the development of the resources of the Colony, being about one-fifth, or 10,914 inhabitants of New Providence, out of a population of 53,787.

133. The following comparative table shows the statistics of population for the years 1897 and 1898 respectively :—

Year.	Number of Inhabitants.	Births.	Deaths.	Births Average per 1,000.	Deaths Average per 1,000.
1897	52,847	2,141	1,178	40·5	22·2
1898	53,787	2,164	1,224	40·2	22·7

Public Health.

134. The Medical Inspector reports that the state of the public health was exceptionally good throughout the entire year, that there was only a very slight difference in the relative mortality in the different seasons, the highest occurring in the June quarter; and that notwithstanding the fact that vaccination is made compulsory by law it is disregarded to a very large extent and the condition of the population in respect of protection from small-pox is by no means satisfactory.

Sanitation.

135. For the enforcement of sanitary laws and regulations the Medical Inspector, who is also Chairman of the Board of Health, is assisted by a salaried official whose business is to carry out a periodical inspection of premises, and respecting the Island of New Providence, the Medical Inspector reports that "the general sanitary condition of the Island was very satisfactory, drainage good, and water supply from springs and cisterns abundant; the

faulty construction and ventilation of houses and overcrowding are undoubtedly the cause of much preventable disease, but great improvement has taken place in these respects in recent years."

CLIMATE.

136. As the Islands forming the Bahamas group extend from north to south over seven degrees of latitude, the variations of climate are necessarily considerable. Inagua, the most southerly Island of the group, lies well within the tropics and is subject to the influence of the regular trade winds, whilst the Island of New Providence, where alone meteorological records are kept, lies outside and on the verge of the Tropic of Cancer, and is therefore deprived of the moderating influence of the trades and is subject in the summer to greater heat, and in the winter to a lower degree of cold, than is ever reached in the southern Islands.

137. It is to be understood, therefore, that the following observations apply only to the climate of Nassau, New Providence, and commencing with—

(1.) *Rainfall.*—It may be stated that the average for the past 17 years has been 50·82 inches, ranging from 79·41 in 1887 to 25·54 in 1882. Nearly the whole of this amount falls between the 15th May and 15th November, the other six months of the year having only a few light showers, eight to ten weeks often elapsing without rain.

(2.) *Temperature.*—The temperature throughout the Colony is very equable and sudden changes seldom occur, save during the winter months when the wind hauls from south to north-west, but at such times the change is very welcome, the south wind being very oppressive and damp. The winter shade temperature averages about 70° Fah., the lowest recorded reading having been observed on 13th February 1899 when 52·7° was registered, being the date of a very severe cold wave which visited the neighbouring mainland. The summer temperature ranges fron 80° to 90°, seldom varying more than five degrees from midday to midnight, and the nights are very oppressive owing to the calm which falls at sunset and lasts till 9 a.m. The sun temperature reaches as high as 160° Fah.

(3.) *Direction and force of wind.*—At Nassau easterly winds prevail for about three-sevenths of the year. Northerly winds occur between September and March, but do not often last for more than 3 days consecutively, when they haul round to east and south.

The west wind is seldom noted, but occasionally in February and March blows with great violence, generally corresponding with "cold wave" in the adjoining mainland.

Serious gales seldom occur, but in the months of August, September, and October one or more may strike some portion of

the Islands, but appear to be of small area, and no such visitation as the hurricane of 1st October 1866 has occurred since that date.

The subjoined Meteorological Return for 1898 shows the prevailing temperature for each month of the year, the rainfall, and general direction of wind:—

Month.	Temperature.				Rainfall.		Direction of wind.	
	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range	Mean	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity.	North, North-east, East, and South-east winds.	South, South-west, West, and North-west winds
	°	°	°	°				
January ...	84	55·7	29·3	69·8	·75	73·3	23	6
February ...	81	59·7	21·3	70·3	1·19	68·2	21	7
March ...	84·7	61·5	23·2	73·1	·49	67·8	31½	1½
April ...	88·3	64·1	24·2	76·2	2·28	68·2	18½	10½
May... ...	90·7	68	22·7	79·3	1·81	66·7	23½	7½
June ...	98	73	25	85·5	3·28	67·6	28	1
July... ...	96·5	72	24·5	84·5	4·23	72·3	28	2
August ...	94·5	72	22·5	83·3	9·17	72·8	26½	3½
September ...	93	74·1	18·9	83·5	8·07	74·0	20	10
October ...	88·7	72	16·1	80·3	8·49	74·6	23	6
November ...	87·7	69	18·7	78·3	1·75	71·0	26	3
December ...	86	63	23·9	74·5	1·89	74·2	22½	8

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

138. *Post Office.*

—	1897.	1898.
	£	£
Total Postal Revenue	2,452	2,201
Total cost of Postal Service	5,445	5,319

The decreased revenue of 1898 was caused by a reduction in sales of stamps to dealers, these sales having produced only £91 last year whereas in the previous year £384 was realized by these sales. The decreased expenditure was caused by stoppages of subsidy to the New York and Cuba Steamship Company on account of occasional failures, caused by the war, to run fortnightly steamers.

139. During the last two years the subsidies for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony have not been permanently fixed. In 1897 the subsidy of £2,500 continued to be paid to the New York and Cuba Steamship Company, and £1,200 was paid to the Florida East Coast Company for a service between Nassau and Florida of twelve weeks, commencing with the 15th January; but in 1898 a new contract was entered into with the New York and Cuba Company, to continue in force for five years from the 1st June 1898, reducing the annual subsidy from £2,500 to £1,500, and the contract with the Florida East Coast Company was put into its final form, which involves the payment of a subsidy of £3,500 per annum by the Colonial Government for ten years, renewable at the option of the Company for a further period of ten years.

140. Although shown in the Blue Book returns as for the "conveyance of mails beyond the Colony," the contract, including the payment of the subsidy, is more nearly concerned with the erection and maintenance of first-class hotels and the conveyance of tourists between Nassau and Florida during the four months ending 30th April, after which the conveyance of mails ceases.

141. The subsidies payable to sailing vessels under contract to carry the fortnightly or monthly mails between Nassau and the out-islands amount in the aggregate to £1,032, and the expenditure on salaries and all other expenses of the Postal Service to £1,150.

142. The business of the Post Office tends to increase slightly, probably owing to the increased number of winter visitors. In 1898 there passed through the Post Office 2,496 more letters than in 1897, 317 more post-cards, and 1,572 more newspapers; but there was a decrease of 3,537 in the number of books and trade circulars, and of 253 in parcels.

143. On reference to the following statement of the estimated total number of letters, &c., dealt with in 1898, it will be observed that correspondence with the United Kingdom is rather more than one-third of the whole, the remaining two-thirds being with the United States and other places :—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters	35,767	17,908	18,252	52,569	51,068	175,564
Post-cards ...	382	592	434	972	1,420	3,800
Newspapers ...	8,589	18,476	4,734	22,737	6,878	61,414
Book packets, samples, and circulars.	7,433	19,928	1,134	18,987	2,595	50,077
Parcels	—	1,012	178	1,081	115	2,386

144. The Post Office money order business was rather less in 1898 than in the previous year, the total amount passing through the Post Office in 1898 having been £2,373 whereas in 1897 it amounted to £2,984.

145. The following is a comparative statement (omitting fractions) of the amount of money order transactions in 1898 and the previous year, distinguishing the transactions with the United Kingdom from those with the United States and other countries :—

Countries.	Issued in Colony.				Paid in Colony.			
	1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
United Kingdom ...	603	1,012	529	768	99	289	120	333
United States ...	743	1,013	739	781	161	445	136	318
Other Countries ...	42	119	35	47	36	106	38	126

Telegraph Service.

146. The total number of messages sent over the Bahamas cable was 1,759, and 1,725 messages were received, of which the following are the details :—

Countries.	Sent to.	Received from.
United Kingdom ...	300	281
Other Countries ...	1,459	1,444

147. The receipts amounted to £1,548 15*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure on salaries and working expenses to £485 15*s.* 9*d.*

148. To obtain the actual cost of the cable for 1898, or any year, there must be added to the working expenses the annual contribution to the repair fund, which is £700, the interest on the cable loan, £1,200, and the sinking fund, £630; making a total of £3,015 15*s.* 9*d.*, and after deducting from this total the amount of the revenue as given above, it will be seen that the general revenue contributed in 1898 £1,467 0*s.* 4*d.* to the maintenance of this service.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Constabulary.

149. There are no regular forces, militia, or volunteers. The constabulary is a semi-military force, trained to the use of arms but doing the duties as well of police constables. They were originally enlisted in Barbados, but are recruited wherever good recruits are to be got; some have claimed their return passage to Barbados on the expiration of their first period of service, but a satisfactory number have decided to re-engage. Besides a commandant and sergeant-major, the force consists of eight non-commissioned officers and 57 privates, of whom 47 are stationed in New Providence and 10 in the various out-islands.

150. The commandant reports that the conduct of the force has been good during the past year, that the arms, clothing, and equipment are in good order, and the accoutrements are still serviceable, though they have been in use for a very long period, which speaks well for the care which has been taken of them, and that the health of the men has benefitted for the issue of waterproof capes to those on duty in wet weather.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

151. During the whole course of the Cuban insurrection from 1895 to April 1898 it was necessary for the Government of this Colony, with the aid of one of Her Majesty's ships stationed here for the purpose, to be constantly on the alert to prevent the

numerous Cays and Islets being made use of as depôts for arms and ammunition destined to the use of the insurgents; but with the outbreak of the Spanish-American war that condition of affairs came to an end. The Spanish Consul was removed, and the Colony was not affected by the war otherwise than by the rise of prices of American goods and by the interruption of the regular mail service between Nassau and New York by the steamers of the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company. Communication, however, was kept up with more or less regularity as occasion served by the S.S. "Antilia," a vessel owned by a Nassau Company, and by tramp steamers under neutral flags, until the close of the war in October, when the American Company at once resumed their mail service with their own vessels, which had in the meantime been employed by the United States Government as transports.

152. A severe gale struck the coast of Abaco on the 27th September and destroyed the lighthouse and keepers' dwellings at Little Harbour, besides destroying or damaging many tenements of the poorer cl[illegible]s, and occasioning a temporary scarcity of food. The same gale vi[illegible]ed the district of Harbour Island with similar results. Immediate relief was afforded by the Government by sending down flour and other food-stuffs, and, later in the year, when the Resident Justices had furnished particulars of the losses, money was granted to assist the people in the purchase of lumber to rebuild their houses, £421 being the total amount thus spent in relieving the necessities of these poor people.

153. A new feature has appeared in the ordinary life routine of these little Island communities, which has affected the lives of hundreds of the labouring classes and bids fair to become for them a most important source of prosperity by affording excellent remuneration for the unskilled labour which abounds in these Islands, but has hitherto sought in vain for an outlet.

154. Some years ago a few ships of the Atlas Line and others touching at Long Cay, on their way through the Crooked Island Passage, southwards, into the Windward Passage, commenced the practice of engaging labourers for their voyages to work simply as stevedores, and landing them again at Long Cay on their homeward voyage.

155. This practice gave so much satisfaction to all the parties concerned that it has now expanded to very large dimensions, and labourers are now engaged not only for work on board the ships, but on railway works and dock works on the mainland; the Island of Inagua also, which lies close to the direct route taken by ships making for the Windward Passage, and which is easy of approach by day or night, being one of the Imperial lighthouse stations, has also now become a port of call for several lines of steamships with the same object of engaging labourers.

156. There has been no hitch or interruption of any kind in the smooth working of these mutually advantageous arrangements, except once when the British Consul reported by telegram a

strike of native labourers at Colon, and advised that the Bahamas contingent should be temporarily kept at home, but, almost immediately after this report and advice were received, the strike was composed by agreement between the Company and the labourers in its employ.

157. Exact returns of the numbers of labourers shipped away and brought back cannot be furnished for 1898, but it may be stated approximately from the reports of the Resident Justice that 1,691 labourers were engaged at Long Cay, of whom 300 were engaged for railway work at Greytown, and the remainder for work on board ship. Labourers to the number of 160 were returned from the railway works.

158. There are no numerical returns from the Island of Inagua, but the Resident Justice reported at the end of May 1898 that "gangs of 100 labourers per month leave Inagua for Bluefields, Central America, per S.S. 'Lincluden,' for terms of from six to nine months. An average of 160 men per month also obtain employment as deck hands on several steamship lines for short terms, ranging from ten days to four weeks."

159. The same official reported for the month of February in this present year "The Bahama labourer is in great demand. Two new companies, viz., the Mexican Central Railway Company and the Pacific Railroad Company, have decided to send their ships regularly to this port for men. Wages $16 a month (gold) and board and lodging. Foremen $1 a day. The men are required as stevedores and dock labourers at Tampico and Colon. The agent of the former Company informs me that he would like to get 800 if possible.

"In case of illness the men will be provided with free hospital accommodation and medical attendance. The latter Company will probably run three steamers a month, taking 50 men each trip."

160. Governor Sir W. H. Smith left the Colony on the 27th January, having been appointed High Commissioner at Cyprus, and Governor Sir Gilbert T. Carter arrived and assumed the government of the Colony on the 6th March. Mr. William Rees Davies was appointed Attorney-General (in the place of Sir Ormonde Malcolm, promoted to the Chief Justiceship), and arrived at Nassau on the 23rd February.

161. The immediate prospects of trade are good, but it is difficult to forecast, at present, what effect upon the trade of the Colony may be exercised by the prospective return to vigorous productive life of the stagnant industries of the Island of Cuba; if that Island obtains preferential treatment for its produce in the markets of the United States, the sale of Bahamas fruit, which has been sensibly strengthened by the failure of the Florida growers, will again suffer, but from a far more formidable competition.

162. In an interesting article on "the value of Porto Rico," in the June number of the "Forum," the writer, a member of the

Geological Survey of the United States, mentions the possibilities of a future trade in fruit in the following terms :—

"Porto Rico does offer inducements, however, to intelligent agriculturists, or rather horticulturists, scientific farmers who can utilize and direct native labour. The American farmer cannot give the Porto Rican many lessons in the culture of the three staple crops of cane, coffee, and tobacco ; but the scientific horticulturist can greatly increase the quality and quantity of the fruit product. The only present opening in Porto Rico to the farmer of small capital is that of growing export fruits such as oranges and bananas. Some people may find profit and pleasure in the culture of these ; but, with the consumption limited, and Cuba as a prospective competitor in the industry, little more than $5,000,000 can be added to the annual product."

163. It may be inferred that the writer, and probably many other Americans who have given any thought to the subject, anticipate a large fruit trade in the future with their West Indian dependencies, in which the million sterling contributed by Porto Rico will scarcely make any show in the immensity of the Cuban exports, and, doubtless, there will be such a trade within the course of the next decade.

164. The sponge beds, also, of Cuba have been practically unworked for years, and are said to be superior to any of those lying off the Bahamas Islands, so that if and when they are worked by the aid of the American capital and under the protective system of the Republic the sponge export trade of the Colony would, undoubtedly, suffer.

165. It may be stated, however, as a hopeful prospect, that there is no assignable reason why the fruit and sponge exports of the Colony should not, if deprived of the nearer market, find an outlet in the markets of the United Kingdom ; this was the course of trade which formerly existed, and with some concentration of the capital and energy now dispersed in individual enterprise it might be recovered if the necessity arose.

166. The climate of the Bahamas, though relaxing, is easily supported by Europeans, but immigrants of the labouring classes would not find their condition improved, as there are no Crown lands of any fertility on which they could be settled, and wages are lower than they are in England. The condition of the native peasantry, of course, varies very much, depending largely on the various environments to be met with in so many islands, thinly inhabited and diversely endowed with the natural gifts of oil, rainfall, harbours, sandy beaches, &c., &c. In parts of Abaco and other places where sisal plantations are worked wages can be earned during a portion of the year, and almost everywhere crops can be grown of Indian corn, sweet potato, yam, and cassava, and there is generally abundance of sea fish and shell fish to be gathered in by the fishermen, which is either brought to Nassau for sale or consumed locally.

167. When the crops fail through drought there is often great distress, which is always promptly relieved by the Government as soon as it becomes known, but it is evident that in the remote settlements existence may become precarious in certain very exceptional circumstances; for instance, the inhabitants of the village of Cherokee Sound, Abaco, were in serious straits after the gale of September, as may be gathered from the following extract from a report by the Assistant Resident Justice:—"The starving condition of the people was not caused by the hurricane, but by the mail being detained in Nassau on account of the stormy weather and the smack fishermen not sending home supplies for their families, and the shopkeepers here being out of everything eatable, I was out of food for four days, not a mouthful of anything to eat but a few beans, and one day I went without any food at all. I heard no complaint from the people until a few days before the mail arrived from Nassau, saying some were starving and could not purchase a mouthful of food, as all the shopkeepers were out of provisions, and if the weather continued and the mail had to pass on her way over they must all starve. This is a yearly occurrence with a number of the people here in hurricane months; the men are all at home from August until the end of September or early part of October, and only a few cultivate the soil to try and secure sufficient ground provisions to feed their families during this season of the year; the small amount they realize by smack fishing will not allow them to remain at home two or three months and support their families with the small pittance saved during the fishing season, and unless they turn more of their attention to the cultivation of ground produce, they must continue to suffer at this season of the year for food."

168. The general condition of the Colony is fairly prosperous; the few staple industries are thriving, with the exception of that of salt-gathering, which seems to be almost given up; education is advancing by slow degrees, and the religious instruction of the people is everywhere maintained by the efforts of missionary societies; the revenue department of the service is now on a most satisfactory footing, and the revenue has increased so much that the Government has been enabled to sanction a large reduction of taxation; it is also confidently expected that the general prosperity will be much enhanced by the opening up of Nassau to winter visitors, consequent upon the completion of the steamer and hotel service of the East Coast Florida Company.

J. S. CHURCHILL,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,
18th June 1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 298.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 277.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October, 1900.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., ROSE STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1900.

[Cd. 354–4.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	,,
278	British Honduras	,,
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
280	Grenada	,,
281	St. Vincent	,,
282	Hong Kong	,,
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	,,
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	,,
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	,,
295	Malta	,,
296	Fiji	,,
297	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.

No. 298

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 277.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. CARTER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Nassau,
22nd June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Bahamas Blue Book for 1899, together with the Report on the same, which has been furnished by the Colonial Secretary.

2. Mr. Churchill has prepared a very interesting and instructive Report, and it is satisfactory to note that the Colony under my administration continues in the flourishing state which may be said to have commenced in 1895, the Revenue in that year totalling £55,642, while that for the year under review reached £76,697, the last two years having produced a surplus of upwards of £18,000, and there is reason to hope that a continuation of this prosperity may be anticipated.

3. In an appendix* to the Report, Mr. Churchill, has contributed some valuable notes on the planting of the "Agave," which produces the so-called "Sisal" fibre, as well as some information in regard to the extraction and preparation of the fibre. In view of its general interest, I trust that this may be printed with the Report.

I have, &c.,
G. T. CARTER.

---

* Printed separately as Colonial Report [Miscellaneous], No. 14.

6376—800—7/1900 Wt 24600 D & S—5

Bahamas, 1899.

REPORT ON THE BAHAMAS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1899.

PART I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The Revenue for 1899 amounted to £76,697 11*s.* 10*d.*, an increase of £2,330 4*s.* 2*d.* over that of the previous year (1898).

2. The Customs receipts (omitting fractions) accounted for £65,499 of the total Revenue, and exceeded those of the previous year by £1,929, notwithstanding a reduction in the tariff of import duties, which came into force on the 1st May, and had been estimated to cause a reduction in the annual receipts at the rate of £9,000 per annum or thereabouts.

3. That these expectations of loss were not fulfilled, but that, on the contrary, an actual increase in the receipts took place was due to the exceptional conditions which prevailed during the entire year through the residence in Nassau of more than four hundred foreign workmen and their families—mostly of the class of highly paid artisans in the several building trades—brought over for work on the new Colonial Hotel, the satisfaction of whose daily needs must have added largely to the total consumption of most imported articles.

4. The Expenditure of the year amounted to £68,748 18*s.* 7*d.*, and exceeded that of 1898 by £6,295 6*s.* 3*d.*, but in the expenditure of the year under review are found such unusual items (fractions omitted) as £1,706 for repairs to Government House and other public buildings, and a sum of £2,213 spent in relieving the destitution caused by the hurricane, also such items as the increased cost of Charitable Institutions, £268, repairs to the harbour dredger, £463, and a sum of £1,687, the difference between the full subsidy of £3,500 first paid in 1899 to the Florida Hotel and Steamship Company and the partial payments of former years before the full terms of the contract were carried out.

5. In the following tabular statements the heads of Revenue and Expenditure are given in detail, and may be compared with those of the preceding year:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, 1898 and 1899.

BAHAMAS, 1899.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1898.	Amount Collected in 1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. *Customs :—*		
Duties on Imports	63,570 11 10	65,494 17 3
Duties on Exports	2 11	4 18 6
Port and harbour dues :		
Tonnage dues	540 1 6	704 16 3
Light dues	93 7 1	208 6 5
Wharfage	38 13 11	181 13 7
2. *Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified :—*		
Taxes :		
Dog	6 10 0	51 19 9
Horse and carriage	166 10 0	177 5 0
House property	1,228 1 8	1,156 16 7
Fire policies	40 5 3	43 6 7
Auction	104 8 7	212 12 3
Licences :		
Auctioneers'	19 18 4	22 9 10
Dray and drivers'	50 12 0	59 0 0
Liquor	1,049 12 0	1,009 8 4
Apothecaries'	60 0 0	60 0 0
Hackney carriage	76 15 0	94 2 6
Miscellaneous :		
Fines and forfeitures	704 17 11	678 16 0
Warehouse charges	112 2 10	93 18 11
Market rates and tolls	485 4 4	506 15 9
Carried forward ...	68,347 15 2	70,761 3 6

REVENUE, 1898 AND 1899.

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1,924 5	—	Increased imports due to the arrival in Nassau of foreign workmen engaged during the year in building the new hotel.
4 15	—	
164 14 9	—	Vessels bringing cargoes of materials for hotel.
114 19 4	—	
142 19 8	—	
45 9 9	—	New Dog License Act in operation.
10 15 0	—	
—	71 5 1	Large arrears from 1897 collected in 1898.
3 1 4	—	
108 3 8	—	Sale of furniture of Royal Victoria Hotel.
2 11 6	—	
8 8 0	—	
—	40 3 8	
—	—	
17 7 6	—	
—	26 1 11	
—	18 3 11	
21 11 5	—	
2,569 2 11	155 14 7	

BAHAMAS, 1899.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1898.	Amount Collected in 1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	68,347 15 2	70,761 3 6
3. *Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Purposes, and Reimbursements in Aid:—*		
Fees of Office...	435 9 7	564 0 11
Storage of gunpowder	6 11 1	13 12 0
Reimbursements in aid	774 17 4	534 15 7
Probate duty...	128 16 9	270 2 4
4. *Post Office and Telegraphs:—*		
Post Office revenue	2,165 16 5	2,558 10 8
Telegraph receipts	1,590 4 10	1,254 16 4
5. *Rents from Government Property:—*		
Bank premises	50 0 0	50 0 0
Frederick Street abutment	20 0 0	20 0 0
Royal Victoria Hotel	400 0 0	—
Ice House	100 0 0	100 0 0
Officers' quarters	54 11 8	—
Rent of rooms R. V. Hotel...	—	—
6. *Contributions to Widows' and Orphans' Fund:—*		
Sundry persons	226 9 6	225 4 6
7. *Miscellaneous Receipts:—*		
Petty receipts and unforeseen items of revenue.	66 15 4	56 9 7
Interest on investments under Surplus Monies Act, 1898.	15 2 10	288 16 5
	74,382 10 6	76,697 11 10
Debentures realized...	—	1,325 0 0
Transfer of Stock of Sinking Fund of £5,000 Loan.	—	5,031 19 4
Total ...	74,382 10 6	83,054 11 2

REVENUE, 1898 AND 1899—*continued.*

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
2,569 2 11	155 14 7	
128 11 4	—	Fees of Admiralty Court paid in 1899 were larger than usual.
7 0 11	—	
—	240 1 9	Amount paid in on account of unexpended grants.
141 5 7	—	Duties received on estates in 1899.
392 14 3	—	The war in 1898 caused a decrease in number of letters passed through Post Office but an increase of telegraphic messages. In 1899 the conditions were reversed.
—	335 8 6	
—	—	
—	—	
—	400 0 0	Hotel no longer in possession of Government.
—	—	
—	54 11 8	Ditto Ditto.
—	—	
—	1 5 0	
—	10 5 9	
273 13 7	—	£11,077 8*s.* 1*d.* invested in 1899.
3,512 8 7	1,197 7 3	
1,325 0 0	—	
5,031 19 4	—	
9,869 7 11	1,197 7 3	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Service.	Expenditure, 1898.	Expenditure, 1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt ...	7,935 10 8	8,165 10 8
2. Pensions, Treasury	2,084 17 2	2,079 2 1
3. Pensions, Widows' and Orphans' Fund ...	2,264 17 1	2,073 5 7
4. House of Assembly	716 12 3	539 15 1
5. Legislative Council	70 0 0	70 0 0
6. Governor and Staff	1,249 7 0	1,313 9 0
7. Colonial Secretary's Department	1,098 10 6	1,100 7 11
8. Receiver-General's Department	3,064 6 0	3,217 13 10
9. Judicial Department...	6,185 13 9	5,921 10 0
10. Registrar's Department	494 19 0	490 16 0
11. Constabulary and Police	5,316 2 7	5,425 16 9
11A. Fire Department	181 14 2	287 8 2
12. Surveyor-General's Department	325 3 2	368 4 6
13. Audit Department	350 0 0	350 0 0
14. Post Office Department	5,319 10 11	7,007 6 9
15. Telegraph and Telephone Department ...	1,182 2 5	1,212 14 10
Carried forward ...	37,839 6 8	39,623 1 2

EXPENDITURE, 1898 AND 1899.

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
230 0 0	—	Arrears of interest on £6,000 loan paid in 1899.
—	5 15 1	
—	191 11 6	
—	176 17 2	Less printing required in 1899.
—	—	
64 2 0	—	Governor's travelling expenses.
1 17 5	—	
153 7 10	—	Employment of temporary tidewaiters caused by wrecks.
—	264 3 9	A re-adjustment of salaries in 1898.
—	4 3 0	
109 14 2	—	Expenses in carrying out Dog License Act.
105 14 0	—	Purchase of hose and other appliances.
43 1 4	—	More visits paid to out-islands by surveyor and staff.
—	—	
1,687 15 10	—	First payment of Florida Mail Subsidy in full under new contract.
30 12 5	—	
2,426 5 0	642 10 6	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF

Head of Service.	Expenditure, 1898.	Expenditure, 1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	37,839 6 8	39,623 1 2
16. Ecclesiastical Establishment	757 0 0	757 2 5
17. Education Department	4,750 0 0	4,750 0 0
18 Public Libraries	380 0 0	465 0 0
19 Port and Marine Department	1,210 14 2	1,674 5 11
20. Medical Department	801 0 9	633 9 10
21. Charitable Institutions	5,494 19 9	5,763 6 8
22. Prisons...	1,808 16 8	1,750 16 1
23. Public Works...	7,754 10 4	9,460 13 9
24. Miscellaneous...	1,657 4 0	3,871 2 9
	62,453 12 4	68,748 18 7
Surplus Monies Act	1,694 16 1	501 19 9
Erection of new Barracks	723 12 3	3,231 19 6
Investment on account : surplus funds ...	5,968 0 4	11,077 8 1
Redemption of debentures	—	5,000 0 0
Total	70,840 1 0	88,560 5 11

EXPENDITURE, 1898 AND 1899—*continued.*

Increase.	Decrease.	Cause of Increase or Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
2,426 5 0	642 10 6	
0 2 5	—	
—	—	
85 0 0	—	
463 11 9	—	Repairs to dredger.
—	167 10 11	Decrease in expenses on account of Medical Inspector's visits to vessels in quarantine.
268 6 11	—	Increase in salaries and increased cost of maintenance of inmates.
	58 0 7	
1,706 3 5	—	Repairs to Government House, £500; furniture, £300; public buildings repairs, £493.
2,213 18 9	—	
7,163 8 3	868 2 0	
—	1192 16 4	
2,508 7 3	—	
5,109 7 9	—	
5,000 0 0	—	
19,781 3 3	2,060 18 4	

6. The Abstract of Revenue and Expenditure for 1899 shows that the year commenced with a surplus carried over from 1898 amounting to £12,975 9*s.* 3*d.*, and ended with a balance in hand of £7,355 0*s.* 6*d.*

7. The redemption of the debentures issued in 1894 to the amount of £5,000, and made payable in October, 1899, appears as an item of account on each side of the balance sheet, and on the Expenditure side the sum of £3,733 19*s.* 3*d.* is shown to have been expended on works carried out under special enactments, through a series of years, and not included in the annual appropriation, and a sum of £11,077 8*s.* 1*d.* was added to the investments already made on account of surplus funds.

8. The total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years is given in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1895	55,642	11	4	55,758	0	6
1896	65,126	9	11	60,134	16	0
1897	62,754	2	1	63,405	5	3
1898	74,382	10	6	64,148	8	5
1899	76,697	11	10	68,748	18	7

9. The steady augmentation of Revenue which commenced in 1895 and culminated in 1899 is rather remarkable, as, although in 1899 there were conditions specially favourable to the increase of Revenue, as mentioned above in paragraph 3, there was at the same time, during eight months of the year, a tariff of import duties in force which, according to calculations, should have reduced the receipts at the rate of £9,000 per annum, or actually by £6,000 for these eight months, and therefore, although it is not probable that another year will witness such exceptionally high receipts as those of last year, still the indications are all in favour of a continuance of satisfactory Budgets, in which the Revenue will amply suffice to provide for all the ordinary requirements of the Colony.

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

10. An important change has been made in taxation by the amendment of the Import Duty Tariff, which it was intended should abolish duties to the extent of £9,000 per annum by reduction in rates, of which the following are those principally effective in reducing taxation:—

Imports paying *ad valorem* duty of 25%, reduction to 20%.

Rope and cotton duck paying *ad valorem* duty of 25%, reduction to 10%.

Duty on flour reduced from 3*s.* a barrel and 10% *ad valorem* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per barrel.

Duty on lumber dressed reduced from 15*s.* to 10*s.* per 1,000 feet.

Duty on kerosene oil reduced from 4*d.* to 3*d.* per gallon.

Duty on sugar refined reduced from 12*s.* to 8*s.* per 100 lbs.

Duty on sugar unrefined reduced from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per 100 lbs.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

11. The following is a tabular statement of the Assets and Liabilities on December 31st, 1899:—

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Cash in chest	5,097	16	5	On current accounts	1,847	18	0
Balance in hands of Out-island Collectors and in transit.	408	7	2	Savings Bank—due to depositors	13,068	16	3
Balance in hand of Crown Agents	848	16	11	Loans—under Act 51 Vict., cap. 9	48,126	0	2
Remittance in transit to Crown Agents	1,000	0	0				
Investments on account, Surplus Funds	15,720	8	5				
Investments on account, Hotel Fund	8,177	6	10				
Cash on deposit, Hotel Fund	214	8	1				
Savings Bank—invested	12,375	7	4				
Savings Bank—balance cash in office, £4 1*s.* 2*d.*; in bank £866 6*s.* 0*d.*	870	7	2				
Cable Repair Fund—invested	6,242	3	5				
Cable Repair Fund—cash	22	6	2				
Total	50,977	7	11	Total	63,042	14	5

PUBLIC DEBT.

12. A reduction of the Public Debt was made in the course of the year by paying off debentures which had been issued to the amount of £5,000 in 1894, and redeemable in October, 1899, and also by the redemption of six debentures of £100 each by the Crown Agents, being part of the original loan of £35,000 raised in 1885, the total Public Debt being thus reduced from £118,426 in 1898 to £112,826 at the close of 1899.

13. The following tabular return gives the particulars of each loan and the provision for payment:—

STATEMENT OF

Debt.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.
£ s. d. 28,700 0 0	Various persons.	£4 10s. per cent.	In 1885—The failure of the Nassau Public Bank to liquidate certain claims against the Government.
48,126 0 2	Various persons.	£4 per cent.	In 1888—For the purpose of reducing outstanding Debentures which had from time to time been issued within these Islands.
30,000 0 0	Various persons.	£4 per cent.	January 1892—Telegraph communication between the Bahamas Islands and parts beyond the limits of the Colony.
6,000 0 0	—	£3 per cent.	1896.
112,826 0 2			

PUBLIC DEBT.

Provisions for payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and enactments by which it is made.	Amount of original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
Principal and interest secured from General Revenue and Assets of the Colony. The interest on the total nominal amount of Debentures issued under the Act and the Sinking Fund (10*s.* per centum on original debt) are paid half-yearly to the Crown Agents, and by them used in payment of the interest on outstanding Debentures, expenses of advertisements, &c., and the remainder invested by them and applied towards reducing the debts either by purchase in the open market or by annual drawings. (48 & 49 Vict., cap. 24.)	£ *s.* *d.* 35,000 0 0	£ *s.* *d.* 6,300 0 0	Six debentures of £100 each are drawn for payment by the Crown Agents every year. The tenth annual drawing took place in 1899.
Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury. Debentures redeemable 35 years after their respective dates.	48,126 0 2		
£630 per annum paid out of Treasury to Crown Agents towards the Sinking Fund. Interest payable quarterly. (55 Vict., cap. 1.)	30,000 0 0		
58 Vict., cap. 1. £872 per annum paid out of the Public Treasury towards the Sinking Fund.	6,000 0 0		
	124,126 0 0	£5,000, being balance of loan raised under 57 Vict., cap. 13, was paid off in October, 1899.	

CURRENCY.

14. By the Act 2 Vic., cap. 4, passed in the year 1838, British sterling money was made the current money of the Colony, and all ordinary retail business is transacted with British silver and copper coinage, which are legal tender without any limit.

15. The Bank of Nassau has a note issue of £6,500, and its notes are in circulation throughout the Islands, but especially in Nassau.

16. American silver coins are current at the relative value of half a dollar for two shillings, and a quarter-dollar for one shilling.

PART II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

17. The value of the total imports and exports was respectively as follows:—

	£
Imports	329,196
Exports	169,148

18. The total imports include articles imported for the construction and furnishing of the new Colonial Hotel, which, under the Hotel and Steam Service Act, are imported free of duty.

19. The above-mentioned importations were valued at £43,477 15*s.*, and the details are given below:—

(Admitted free of duty under the Hotel and Steam Service Acts.)

	£	*s.*
829,335 bricks, valued at	1,107	12
125,100 lbs. of iron nails, valued at ...	560	
380,000 shingles, valued at	254	
Cotton and linen goods, valued at ...	3,128	6
Earthenware, glassware, furniture, &c., valued at	24,123	15
Tinware, hardware, &c., valued at ...	14,304	2
	43,477	15

20. If a deduction be made of the value of the above exceptional imports there will remain as the amount of the year's import trade the sum of £285,719, which will still be in excess of that of the previous year by £47,383.

21. The following statement will show in nearly all imported articles a gradual, though not excessive, increase over the quantities imported in 1898, attributable, no doubt, in great part to the presence in Nassau of American mechanics and labourers employed on the Colonial Hotel; the apparent decrease in flour being caused by the decline in value of that article, for if quantity formed the basis of comparison there would be shown to have been 37,544 barrels imported in 1899, as against 34,236 barrels in 1898:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of IMPORTS for the YEARS 1899 and 1898.

Article.	Value of Imports, 1899.	Value of Imports, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Malt liquors	2,754	1,649	1,165	—
Spirituous liquors	5,893	4,625	1,268	—
Wines...	944	793	151	—
Cotton, woollen, linen and silk goods.	60,961	53,430	7,531	—
Earthenware and glassware, &c.	58,732	33,711	25,021	—
Hardware, &c.	21,350	9,192	12,158	—
Preserved fruit, fish, meats, &c.	15,545	11,228	4,317	—
Flour	25,122	28,880	—	3,758
Salt meat and fish	11,014	9,563	1,451	—
Butter and cheese	7,025	5,757	1,268	—
Corn meal and hominy ...	8,550	6,964	1,586	—
Rice	6,813	7,300	—	487
Lard	2,774	2,239	535	—
Fresh meat	1,484	995	489	—
Potatoes and onions ...	1,422	1,103	319	—
Tea	591	637	—	46
Coffee	1,424	1,964	—	540
Sugar...	10,172	7,319	2,353	—
Lumber	12,161	5,752	6,409	—
Shingles	2,214	1,167	1,047	—

BAHAMAS, 1899.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of IMPORTS for the YEARS 1899 and 1898—*cont.*

Article.	Value of Imports, 1899.	Value of Imports, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Hay, oats, and bran ...	2,233	1,654	579	—
Soap	1,427	1,325	102	—
Cigars and tobacco ...	5,562	4,385	1,177	—
Kerosene oil	2,680	2,036	644	—
Manures	2,086	1,923	163	—

22. The total exports of the Colony were valued at £169,148, of which total £14,873 is accounted for by the export of foreign produce or manufactures, leaving as the value of the Colonial produce exported £154,275.

23. The export of sponge was 83,098 lbs. less in weight and £13,509 less in value than in the previous year, and the export of fibre was but very slightly increased, whilst pine-apples exported, though fewer in number by 208,647, were valued at £3,955 in excess of the value of the quantitively larger exports of 1898.

24. As the value of Bahamas produce varies from year to year, I have shown both quantities and values in the following:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of EXPORTS for the YEARS 1899 and 1898:—

Articles.	Exports in 1899.		Exports in 1898.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	£	No.	£
Pine-apples ...	3,988,973	28,315	4,197,620	24,360
Oranges	482,628	1,199	2,258,478	3,061
	lbs.		lbs.	
Sisal fibre... ...	1,358,682	16,942	1,251,723	14,710
	bushels.		bushels.	
Salt	37,306	486	48,400	800
	lbs.		lbs.	
Sponge	1,124,585	84,003	1,207,683	97,512
Turtle shell ...	12,885	10,039	8,795	7,272
Cascarilla bark ...	97,712	963	124,217	1,540
Hardwood ...	—	823	—	774
	No.		No.	
Conch shells ...	70,962	438	64,636	411

25. The annexed return shows the total imports and exports for the last five years.

RETURN of TOTAL IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the FIVE YEARS 1895 to 1899 inclusive:—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Value of Total Imports and Exports.
	£	£	£
1895	172,581	124,011	296,592
1896	194,774	138,972	333,746
1897	186,010	149,085	335,095
1898	238,336	174,860	413,196
1899	329,196	169,148	498,344

26. The imports from the United Kingdom show a slight increase as compared with 1898, but the exports of Colonial produce continued, as before, to find other markets—principally in the United States, as may be seen in the following return:—

RETURN showing VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS from and to the UNITED KINGDOM and UNITED STATES respectively for the YEARS 1899 and 1898.

Year.	United Kingdom.			United States.		
	Total Imports therefrom.	Total Exports thereto.	Total.	Total Imports therefrom.	Total Exports thereto.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	64,954	19,340	84,294	253,912	125,257	379,169
1898 ...	59,099	29,727	88,736	170,766	104,900	275,666

27. Besides foodstuffs and other articles which are exclusively imported from America there are a few classes of manufactured goods in which the United Kingdom shares the trade with America, and also there are some kinds of tropical produce such as rice, sugar, and tea, which are imported through English agencies rather than American.

28. The following tabular statement is intended to demonstate the position of British trade with the Colony in so far as it is able to compete at all with America, and, to render it more clear, the imports mentioned in paragraph 19 and valued at £43,477, which are not referable in any way to ordinary trade, but are altogether exceptional in character, have been omitted:—

STATEMENT showing the TOTAL VALUES of certain classes of GOODS IMPORTED from the UNITED STATES and UNITED KINGDOM respectively in 1899 and 1898.

Description of Goods.	1899.		1898.	
	United States.	United Kingdom.	United States.	United Kingdom.
	£	£	£	£
Cotton, linen, woollen, and silk goods.	29,979	27,101	25,365	27,676
Earthenware, glassware, furniture.	27,463	5,495	26,512	6,137
Tinware, hardware, &c. ...	4,875	1,906	7,199	1,986
Preserved fruits	11,428	3,490	7,327	3,541
Ale and porter	1,495	1,259	644	997
Spirituous liquors	603	1,720	113	1,357
Sperm candles	16	231	2	199
Linseed and other oils (except kerosene).	459	502	440	426
Soap	1,383	36	1,207	118
Rice	573	6,240	878	6,310
Sugar	2,572	6,168	2,342	4,414
Tea	128	454	294	342

SHIPPING.

29. The statement of the numbers and tonnage of sailing vessels inwards and outwards in 1899 as compared with those of the previous year, which is contained in the following tabular return, discloses a falling off in the numbers and tonnage of British ships, and a corresponding increase in those of American nationality, and this is explained by the fact that the Spanish-American war in 1898 displaced the normal conditions under which a good deal of the carrying trade is done by American schooners, and caused a larger share of the trade to be taken up by British Colonial vessels, but in 1899, the war being over, normal conditions were resumed:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBERS and TONNAGE of SAILING VESSELS ENTERED and CLEARED in 1898 and 1899.

Nationality.	1898.				1899.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	216	13,814	220	14,518	196	12,834	193	12,018
American ...	73	10,609	74	9,994	80	10,169	85	11,209
Spanish ...	5	102	5	102	2	444	—	—
Haytian ...	76	1,452	74	1,396	64	1,335	60	1,234
Dominican ...	4	53	4	53	1	61	1	61
Norwegian ...	1	346	1	346	—	—	—	—
Danish ...	—	—	—	—	1	236	1	236
French ...	—	—	—	—	1	99	1	99

30. The statement of the numbers and tonnage of steamers inwards and outwards in 1899 as compared with those of the previous year, which is contained in the following tabular return, shows an increase in the total numbers and total tonnage of steamers of 99 and 117,469 respectively; but, as I pointed out in my report on the Blue Book for 1898, the increased figures are caused principally by the continually increasing number of steamers that call at Inagua and Fortune Island to engage

labourers, excepting in the case of steamers of American nationality—of whose entries 87 are accounted for by the regular voyages of the subsidised steamers of the New York and Cuba Line, and those of the Florida Company's Line.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBERS and TONNAGE of STEAMERS ENTERED and CLEARED DURING 1899 and PRECEDING YEAR.

Nationality.	1898.				1899.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	101	181,240	101	181,240	115	207,274	114	198,799
American ...	84	133,233	83	130,810	121	173,661	123	183,178
German ...	24	26,516	24	25,890	29	38,972	30	39,739
Norwegian ...	10	4,851	10	4,633	47	44,064	47	44,097
Swedish ...	1	662	1	662	—	—	—	—

31. The following tabular statement of total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years shows a continual progress, which is satisfactory from some points of view, but does not indicate a correspondingly large increase of commercial development:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of TOTAL SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS for the LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total Number of Vessels.		Total Tonnage.		Total Vessels and Tonnage.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1895	438	430	202,751	193,869	868	396,620
1896	490	494	217,719	218,859	984	436,578
1897	560	562	261,042	257,175	1,122	518,217
1898	595	597	371,878	369,644	1,192	741,522
1899	657	655	489,149	490,670	1,312	979,819

SPONGE FISHERY.

32. This industry was injuriously affected by the hurricane which in the month of August ravaged the north end of the island of Andros and some other islands, wrecking and destroying the vessels engaged at the work, and causing an unprecedented loss of life amongst the crews; nevertheless, the quantity exported was not greatly below the statistical record of 1898, as shown herewith:—

TOTAL EXPORT OF SPONGE.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1899	1,124,585 lbs.	84,003
1898.	1,207,683 lbs.	97,512

33. As this industry yearly assumes larger proportions, and becomes of increasing importance by reason of the capital engaged in it, and the numbers of seafaring folk whose livelihood depends upon it, a return showing what were the countries which received this product during 1899 and the previous year, and in what proportions respectively, may perhaps be usefully here inserted:—

RETURN showing COUNTRIES to which SPONGE was EXPORTED in 1899 and the PREVIOUS YEAR, and the VALUE of the EXPORTS to each COUNTRY in these YEARS.

Countries to which Exported.	Value of the Exports.	
	1899.	1898.
	£	£
United States of America ...	48,448	49,958
United Kingdom	14,671	22,624
France	10,796	17,308
Holland	9,720	6,267
Germany	722	522
Canada	—	863

34. Such other industries as are pursued in the Colony, unconnected with agriculture, are few in number and insignifi-

cant commercially. The catching of live turtle for sale may be mentioned, the export of which last year reached 32,278 pounds in weight, and was valued at £487, and there is also the commerce in turtle-shell, of which 12,885 pounds weight was exported last year, valued at £10,039. The turtle-shell of commerce is not derived from the edible species of turtle, but from a species called the Hawksbill, and possesses a high value, the average price obtained being not much less than one pound sterling for one pound weight; but a shell from one turtle weighing 5½ lbs. in all is known to have been sold for £16, which may be taken to be the highest price ever paid in Nassau for turtle-shell.

35. The common shells of the seashore also have some commercial value, and last year 1,342 barrels full were exported, valued at £558, and to these must be added the conch shells which abound on the east coast of Abaco and some other places to such a degree that their numbers are practically inexhaustible, although they are taken for food, for burning in lime-kilns, and are destroyed in thousands in the search for pink pearls. Last year these shells were exported to the number of 70,962, valued at £438.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

36. The pine-apple fields had been already cleared before the hurricane of August, 1899, and, moreover, Eleuthera, the great pine-apple growing island, did not lie in the direct track of the storm, consequently there is but a slight reduction in the quantity of pine-apples produced and exported; also the market value was increased, so that the crop fetched £3,955 more than in 1898, although the numbers exported were fewer by 208,647. Orange groves, which are in bearing during the last quarter of the year, suffered severely, as the return of the fruit exports of the year and those of 1898, given at paragraph 24 of this Report, clearly show.

37. The planting and cultivation of the Bahamas hemp plant, Agave Sisalana, proceeds satisfactorily under the impetus of a good market, and the fibre, which has obtained a high position as an article of commerce, is exported in steadily-increasing quantities, the exports in 1899 amounting to 1,358,682 pounds weight, valued at £16,942, showing an increase of 106,952 pounds weight, and £2,232 value over the exports of 1898.

38. It is estimated that there are now 14,406 acres occupied under this cultivation throughout the Islands, viz.:—

	Acres.
In the island of Abaco and Cays ...	8,610
„ „ „ „ San Salvador ...	3,000
„ „ „ „ Inagua	2,200
„ „ „ „ Andros	350

and a few acres here and there in Long Island, Watling, and Exuma.

39. Factories for the extraction and cleaning of the fibre are established on every small estate; in fact, in this industry there is no place for Central Factories, which would avail nothing in cheapening the cost of production, the best machines yet invented having very small capacity.

40. There are eleven factories working at present, viz.:—In New Providence, four; in Inagua, two; in Andros, two; in Abaco and Cays three.

41. The following particulars by Mr. Forsyth, the Resident Justice at Andros, will give some idea of the output of an ordinary factory, and the cost of working:—

From one Todd Fibre Cleaning Machine, owned by the Marguerite Fibre Co., at Cargill Creek, Andros: Average daily output of cleaned fibre (when working), 700 lbs.
Number of labourers employed at mill, 11.
Number of labourers employed in the field, 40.
Weekly pay roll at the mill, £5.
Weekly pay roll in the field, £10.

From one Todd Fibre Cleaning Machine, owned by Messrs. Roberts and Sutton, at Long Bay Cay, Andros: Average daily output of cleaned fibre (when working), 1,000 lbs.
Number of labourers employed at mill, 11.
Number of labourers employed in the field, 50.
Weekly pay roll at the mill, £9.
Weekly pay roll in the field, £12.

42. Enquiries have been addressed to this Government from other British Colonies desirous of obtaining information concerning this industry, which induces me to think that a synopsis of what has already been written on the subject will be useful, and accordingly I have embodied the same in a separate Report.* This subject has been very fully, and in the main correctly, treated in a pamphlet written in 1886 by Mr. D. J. Stoddart, of Jamaica, with a view to the introduction of the industry into that Colony, and I have drawn largely from that source, as well as from reports written some ten years ago by Mr. Jas. M. Rae, Circuit Magistrate, and by Mr. George Preston, of the Bahamas, in so far as the information contained in these writings is confirmed by practical knowledge, which has been acquired as the fruit of experience by the planters of the Colony up to this date.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

43. Crown lands have always since 1833—with the exception of occasional free grants—been either sold by assignment or at public auction, or offered for sale by tender, any offer for land

* *See* Colonial Report (Miscellaneous), No. 14.

being submitted to the Governor, and, if approved, accepted by him, the Surveyor-General advising as to the value of the land and other matters affecting the transfer of the land from the Crown to the purchaser. Crown lands are also frequently leased to private persons, and several large tracts of land were disposed of in this way during the five years 1889-1894 for the purpose of laying out Sisal estates.

44. Prices vary greatly according to the supposed value of different lands, ranging from 16*s.* 8*d.* to £2 3*s.* per acre for agricultural land, but only three grants were actually issued during the year, and they were for town lots of a quarter of an acre each, and sold for £1 15*s.* 5*d.* each lot.

45. It is estimated that 1,768,852¾ acres of Crown lands remain ungranted at the present time; the quantity already granted being 349,485½ acres; but of this large area remaining in possession of the Crown very little is available for settlement, the bulk of it consisting of barren rock and swamp, and in the islands of Andros and Abaco many square miles consist of pine barren.

There are small patches of good land vacant in Andros, Abaco, Inagua, Mayaguana, and Acklin's, and in the other islands a few small tracts of 20 acres may be found fairly good, but it is not possible to locate these exactly, as no complete surveys have ever been undertaken by the Crown with the express purpose of ascertaining where, and in what quantities, Crown lands of good quality are to be found.

PART III.—LEGISLATION.

46. Much of the work of the Legislature in 1899 was taken up with the preparations necessary for compiling a new edition of the laws of the Bahamas, which edition is now being printed; therefore, besides a repealing Act (62 Vic., cap. 26), which disposed of many obsolete laws, there were also Acts passed for the consolidation of the laws on certain subjects, which in many instances, by reason of the number of amending Acts, had become diffuse and difficult of interpretation.

47. Beside Acts of the above-mentioned class it is necessary to cite the Act 62 Vic., cap. 23, by which the law imposing import duties, which was about to expire at the close of the session, was continued in force, but with a very large reduction in the tariff.

48. A much needed consolidation and amendment of the Liquor Laws of the Colony were carried out by the Act 62 Vic., cap. 33, by which the procedure is simplified in many particulars, such as the mode of applying for licences, or for the reservation of local option districts, the sale of licences, the description of licences, and the creation of a Board of Members to

constitute a "Licensing Authority" in place of the Governor in Council, which body is henceforth relieved from a duty which, by its constitution, it was not best fitted to perform.

49. By the Act 62 Vic., cap. 19, entitled An Act Further to Amend the Law Relating to Friendly Societies, some further steps are taken in the direction of protecting the members of such societies from the consequences of careless or fraudulent keeping of their accounts by placing them more under the control of the stipendiary magistrates.

PART IV.—EDUCATION.

50. The Inspector of Schools in the Report presented by the Board of Education to the Legislature for the year 1899, which is concerned only with primary education, states that the schools were injuriously affected by an unusual amount of sickness and of inclement weather, and specially by the hurricane in August, and the consequent poverty and privation in many of the out-island districts.

51. The following is a statement comparing the education statistics of last year with those of 1898:—

—	1899.	1898.
Number of schools wholly maintained out of the annual grant.	44	44
Number of schools which received grants in aid ...	11	11
Number of pupils who attended Board Schools during some portion of the year.	7,074	7,028
Number of pupils who attended the Assisted Schools during some portion of the year.	1,061	1,044
Number of names on the rolls (Board Schools) ...	5,772	5,998
Number of names on the rolls (Assisted Schools) ...	952	981
Average attendance (Board Schools)	4,001·4	4,050·1
Average attendance (Assisted Schools)	575	632·3
Total number of schools	55	55
Number of scholars present during some portion of the year.	8,090	8,072
Total names on the rolls	6,724	6,979
Average attendance	4,577·4	4,682·4

BAHAMAS, 1899.

52. The teaching staff in the Board Schools comprised 44 principal teachers, four assistant teachers, ten pupil teachers, 85 monitors, and eight sewing teachers. These, together with two students in training and 12 teachers employed in Assisted Schools, make a total of 165.

53. The Inspector reports that only one building belonging to the Board was destroyed in the hurricane of August last, and that was a very old and dilapidated teacher's residence at Nicholl's Town, Andros Island, but many small repairs were rendered necessary. Land was bought, and teachers provided with residences at Marsh Harbour, Spring Point, and Long Bay Cays. There are, however, no less than 12 schoolhouses and half that number of teachers' residences which are urgently required.

I may state that during the recent session of the Legislature—February to May, 1900—a grant was made of £1,250 towards supplying these wants.

54. The Inspector states that the total number of days work done in all the Board Schools was 9,088, the greatest yet attained, which gives an average of 207 to each. The percentage of passes is almost exactly the same as for the preceding year, viz., 78·9, as against 79 in 1898, and in other respects he considers that there has been no falling off.

55. The Inspector complains of the slackness exhibited in enforcing attendance at school under the Compulsory Clauses of the Education Act. "Evidently," he writes, "a considerable pro-"portion of the teachers shirk the trouble and unpleasantness "involved in the discharge of this part of their duty," and he is strongly of opinion that the distance limit of one mile and a half is unsuited to the conditions which prevail in this Colony; that double the distance would inflict no hardship on children over eight years old, most of whom in travelling over the rough island roads would easily beat the average adult person who had been brought up under different conditions.

56. The schools are conducted as nearly as possible on the same lines as those connected with the British and Foreign School Society, and the qualifications of the teachers and the results produced have much improved during recent years, but the conditions are unfavourable, and must so continue. The population being dispersed over the islands in many small settlements, often long distances apart, and connected—if at all—only by rugged ways through the bush, which become almost impracticable in wet weather, it follows that a comparatively large number of small schools must be maintained with naturally inferior organisation, and giving increased openings for irregularities.

57. The amount spent on education last year was £4,800, showing a cost of 14*s.* 3½*d.* for each name on the rolls, or £1 0*s.* 11½*d.* for each pupil, if the calculation is based on the average attendance.

58. Besides the Board Schools and Assisted Schools there are a considerable number of private schools, which are not Government institutions, and are not subject to inspection, as follows:—

In connection with the Church of England there are 31 schools, with 1,647 scholars on the roll and in average attendance, of whom 818 are boys and 829 girls. Roman Catholic schools are four in number, with 481 scholars on the roll and in average attendance, of whom 133 are boys and 348 girls.

Of private schools unconnected with any religious denomination there are 28, with 456 scholars on the roll and in average attendance, of whom 198 are boys and 258 girls.

59. The following is a summary:—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Public schools	2,954	2,818	5,772
Aided private schools	493	459	952
Church of England Schools	818	829	1,647
Roman Catholic schools	133	348	481
Private schools	198	258	456
Total	4,596	4,712	9,308

PART V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

60. The institution called the New Providence Asylum consists of several separate buildings, for which ample space is found within an area of twenty acres, of which a large proportion is laid out as a park with shade trees—the principal block being approached through a handsome gateway and an avenue of casuarina trees. The new lunatic asylum, reserved for male

BAHAMAS, 1899.

patients, of which the first stone was laid on the occasion of Her Majesty's jubilee, was permanently occupied by the patients on the 20th June. It is a fine stone building of two stories, provided with every possible convenience for the patient, and a worthy memorial of the auspicious event which it was designed to commemorate. The building which is applied to the uses of a poorhouse or infirmary is to be pulled down and a new building erected, with improved accommodation for the class of inmates who are not hospital patients. For the latter class nothing could be better designed or arranged than the building which [illegible] apart for their use, and when the new infirmary is built the [illegible] titution, as a whole, will be unsurpassed in the West Indies.

61. The hospital returns for 1899 show that at the close of the year 1898 there remained in the asylum 141 cases, and in the course of the year 1899, 466 were admitted, an increase of 66 over the admissions in 1898. The total number under treatment during the year was 608, and the daily average of persons within the institution 148.

62. There were 224 persons discharged during the year, of whom 75 were recovered, 122 relieved, and 27 without improvement, and the number of deaths was 94.

63. There were 21 admissions to the lunatic asylum, 11 discharges, and 11 deaths.

64. The number of lepers continued to be much the same as in previous years, viz., ten; of whom six were males and four females.

65. The distribution at the close of the year was as follows:—

In the hospital	36
„ „ infirmary	66
„ „ leper asylum	10
„ „ lunatic asylum	29
Total	141

66. The total expenditure on the Institution and on out-door relief to paupers in all the islands, as well as in New Providence, was £5,763 6*s.* 8*d.*, of which £403 7*s.* 2*d.* was spent on medical and surgical requisites, and £122 13*s.* 10*d.* on alcoholic stimulants, and the remainder on maintenance of inmates, salaries of officials, and out-door relief.

67. The following tables show, 1st, the number of admissions, discharges, and deaths for the seven years from 1893 to 1899

inclusive; and, 2nd, the number of new patients attended to in the out-patients' department, and the number of prescriptions dispensed for the five years from 1895 to 1899 inclusive:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, and DEATHS, for the YEARS 1893 to 1899 (inclusive).

Year.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.
1893	254	142	75	139
1894	289	206	103	128
1895	331	233	93	133
1896	404	292	108	137
1897	427	341	83	140
1898	400	298	100	142
1899	466	373	94	141

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBER of NEW PATIENTS and the NUMBER of PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED in the OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT for the LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	New Patients.	Prescriptions.
1895	4,628	12,081
1896	4,326	8,930
1897	3,191	6,291
1898	3,768	6,258
1899	3,699	9,326

BAHAMAS, 1899.

68. The Savings Bank is a Government institution attached to the General Post Office, and is kept by the postmaster and chief clerk at the Nassau Post Office. The deposits are limited to £200 for any one person, and £40 in any single year. The rate of interest allowed on deposits is 2½ per cent., and the amount of invested funds £12,415 19*s.* 11*d.* in stock purchased for £12,375 7*s.* 4*d.*

The following tabular statement will show the amount of business transacted:—

Year.	Number of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount of Deposits during Year.	Amount of Withdrawals during Year.	Total Amount at Credit of Depositors on 31st December.
		£	£	£
1897 ...	1,051	4,157	4,041	9,523
1898 ...	1,107	4,806	4,144	10,415
1899 ...	1,240	7,205	4,822	13,060

PART VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

69. The police returns show that 484 persons were reported by them in the course of the year, and 433 persons arrested, amongst which were 99 cases of fighting in the streets, eight of cutting and wounding, 27 of assaults on the police, and 171 of profane and indecent language or conduct.

The warrants issued numbered 156, and of these 137 were executed.

70. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1899 was 198, of which number 144 were men, 48 women, and six juveniles; 40 persons were committed for safe custody only, the remaining 158 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

71. Of the 158 persons punished with imprisonment 79, or exactly half the number, had been previously convicted, 50 being habitual offenders with three or more previous convictions against them.

72. The sanitary condition of the prison was reported good, and the number of cases in which imprisonment caused the physical improvement of the prisoner was very remarkable.

	1899.	1898.
Daily average number in prison...	50·96	52·71
Number of admissions to hospital	15	21
Daily average on sick list	0·65	2·08

73. The following is a statement of punishments inflicted:—

Reversions of diet	15
Solitary confinement	41
Solitary confinement in crank cell	32
Forfeiture of industrial marks	5
Whipping—adults	1
Whipping—juveniles	1

74. The men are employed in road-making, breaking stones and pumping water; the women in washing and mending clothes, and cooking; there were two escapes of prisoners working outside, but both were recaptured. Of the whole number of prisoners 69 men and 20 women were unable to read or write.

75. The Prison Committee report respecting their expenditure as follows:—

	1st January to 30th June.	1st July to 31st December.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Expenses of Nassau prison	465 3 1	526 18 0
Expenses of out-island prisons ...	66 0 0	77 11 2
Remitted to Crown Agents for prison stores.	92 17 7	
Making a total expenditure of	£1,228 9s. 10d.	for the year.

76. The number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts by arrest, warrant, or summons was 2,518, of whom 182 were discharged for want of prosecution, 464 acquitted, 49 committed for trial, and 1,823 summarily convicted.

BAHAMAS, 1899.

77. The sentences in the magistrates' courts comprised in 1,276 cases the infliction of a fine, in 139 cases sentence of imprisonment in default of payment of fine, in 152 cases peremptory imprisonment, in 55 cases whipping, and in 201 cases binding over with or without sureties, or other trivial punishment.

78. The following comparative table, comprising the period of four years from 1896 to 1899, shows the number of persons brought before the magistrates by arrest or summons, also of persons committed for trial in the Superior Courts, the number convicted of criminal offences, distinguishing offences against the person from those against property, the number of convictions and acquittals in the Inferior and in the Superior Courts :—

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	2,820	2,605	2,468	2,508
Number of summary convictions :—				
For offences against the person...	251	270	238	246
For prædial larceny	46	33	48	37
For offences against property, other than prædial larceny.	78	69	78	80
For other offences	1,584	1,399	1,451	1,460
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
For offences against the person...	11	5	13	10
For prædial larceny	1	—	—	—
For offences against property, other than prædial larceny.	20	7	20	15
For other offences	6	—	—	1
The number of persons acquitted :—				
In the Inferior Courts	576	509	392	464
In the Superior Courts	14	17	16	21

PART VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

79. There were 2,310 births during the year and 1,388 deaths —an excess of births over deaths of 922. The average rate per thousand is for births 48·5, and for deaths 29·1. The estimated number of inhabitants at the end of 1898 was 53,787, and is now estimated at 54,709.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

80. The Medical Inspector reported that the public health was good, no infectious disease having appeared, the ordinary autumnal fevers having been unusually limited in prevalence and mild in type, and the general sanitary condition very satisfactory; the water supply from springs and cisterns abundant, and drainage good.

CLIMATE.

Rainfall.

81. The rainfall for the year amounted to 53·01 inches, of which more than one-third fell in the month of August, during or after the hurricane of the 11th and 12th August. The average rainfall for the last seventeen years has been 50·82 inches, the largest recorded being for the year 1887, amounting to 79·41, and the smallest, for the year 1882, amounted to 25·54.

82. The rainy season lasts from about 15th May to the 15th November, the climate during the rest of the year being generally dry, relieved by showers occasionally, eight to ten weeks sometimes elapsing without rain.

Temperature.

83. The temperature throughout the Colony is very equable, and violent sudden changes are not of frequent occurrence, but in the winter season the temperature may fall twenty or thirty degrees very quickly when the wind shifts from south to northwest.

84. The winter shade temperature averages about 70° Fahr., the lowest recorded reading having been observed on 13th February, 1899, when 52·7° was registered—coincident with a cold wave which swept over Florida.

85. The summer temperature ranges from 80° to 90°, seldom varying more than five degrees between mid-day and midnight, and the nights are very oppressive owing to the calm which falls at sunset and lasts until 9 a.m.

Direction and Force of Wind.

86. Easterly winds are the most prevalent, either from due east or from some point north or south of east, gradually veering to south. South winds are hot, damp, and oppressive at any time of the year, but more especially in the summer time. The north-west winds which occasionally blow during the winter months are healthy and invigorating, but they occur so seldom that they cannot be said to influence the climate.

87. Any or all of the Bahamas islands are liable to find themselves in the track of one of the great hurricanes which, rising far away near the Equator, pursue their devious course in a northerly direction; and such a hurricane struck a portion of the group last August, as will be more fully reported under Part X.

88. Below is the return supplied by the Meteorological Office for the year:—

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar maximum.	Minimum on grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity.	General direction.	Average force.
	°		°	°	°					
January	144·3	—	84·0	67·0	17·0	75·3	2·46	77·0	E.	6·5
February	147·0	—	87·0	53·0	34·0	70·0	1·09	74·5	S.	5·3
March ...	157·0	—	88·0	61·7	26·3	74·8	1·13	60·5	E.	6·2
April ...	151·3	—	87·5	63·0	24·5	75·2	2·76	65·0	E.	7·8
May ...	157·0	—	90·3	69·3	21·0	79·8	4·37	64·0	E.	6·4
June ...	157·0	—	95·0	74·2	20·8	84·6	2·73	68·0	E.	6·2
July ...	161·0	—	93·0	75·0	18·0	84·0	4·42	78·0	E.	5·0
August ...	158·7	—	93·0	70·0	23·0	81·5	19·33	66·5	E.	5·2
September	158·7	—	92·7	71·0	21·7	81·7	3·62	70·0	E.	4·1
October...	154·7	—	93·0	70·0	23·0	81·5	6·60	70·0	NE.	6·0
November	142·7	—	88·7	66·0	22·7	77·3	2·70	75·0	NE.	7·3
December	141·7	—	83·0	54·7	28·3	68·8	1·80	74·5	E.	7·1

PART VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

89. The total postal revenue was £2,465 13*s.* 7*d.*, and the expenditure for salaries, wages, and all expenses of postal service within the Colony was £2,012 3*s.* Expenditure within the Colony includes the subsidies paid to sailing vessels by which postal communication is kept up with all the island districts, at a cost of £1,086 10*s.*

90. On reference to the following statement of the estimated total number of letters, &c., dealt with in 1899, it will be observed that correspondence with the United Kingdom is less than one-third of the whole, more than two-thirds being with the United States and other places:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters	41,002	22,180	17,356	69,697	68,286	218,521
Post-cards ...	258	469	242	1,712	1,641	4,422
Newspapers ...	8,504	16,577	5,712	23,581	8,067	62,441
Book packets, samples, and circulars.	7,135	18,167	817	23,670	2,262	52,051
Parcels	—	1,342	292	1,694	198	3,526

91. The following is a comparative statement (omitting fractions) of the amount of money order transactions in 1899 and the previous year, distinguishing the transactions with the United Kingdom from those with the United States and other countries:—

Countries.	Issued in Colony.				Paid in Colony.			
	1899.		1898.		1899.		1898.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	655	929	529	768	82	171	120	333
United States ...	1,159	1,415	739	781	166	621	136	318
Other Countries ...	33	57	35	47	37	107	38	126

BAHAMAS, 1899.

92. The Government cable from Nassau to Jupiter, in Florida, where it connects with the Western Union Company's system, is reported as continuing still in excellent electrical condition, as shown by repeated tests and rapid daily working. The revenue for 1899 was £1,258 2*s.* 1*d.*, and the working expenses £507 17*s.*; but besides the local expenses the annual Colonial expenditure for the telegraph service includes the contribution to the repair fund, £700, the annual interest on the cable loan, £1,200, and the annual payment to the sinking fund, £630. The number of messages sent was 1,546, and of messages received 1,448, making the total number of messages passed over the wire 2,994, of which 243 were sent to the United Kingdom, 190 were received from the United Kingdom, 1,303 were sent to other places, and 1,258 were received from other places.

PART IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

93. The constabulary or semi-military Colonial force is weak in numbers, but as wages and cost of living rule two or three times higher in the Bahamas than in other West India Colonies their pay and allowances have to be proportionately higher than would be necessary in the Windward or Leeward Islands.

94. Their present strength is one officer and 44 rank and file in barracks, and 16 rank and file living out of barracks, and 10 men stationed in the out-islands, giving a total of 71 officers and men.

95. There is also a system of employing persons engaged in ordinary pursuits as local constables, who receive £1 per month as remuneration for their services. There are 28 such "local constables," as they are called; they are under the orders of the Resident Justices in the out-islands, and assist in keeping order, but follow their usual calling at most times.

96. The Commandant reports that the old military barracks were evacuated and the men removed into the new barracks, which have recently been built for their reception.

97. The general conduct of the men is stated to have been good; there were nine enlistments and four discharges.

PART X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE HURRICANE OF 1899.

98. In the month of August a hurricane of great destructive force passed over the Bahamas from south to north, occasioning in the islands which lay in or near its course much damage to property on land and sea, and much loss of life by drowning.

99. It was the same hurricane which a few days earlier had wrought such havoc at Puerto Rico and Montserrat, and on the 10th August a warning was received from the Weather Bureau, at Washington, that it was off the east end of Cuba, and re-curving northwards. On the 11th the weather at Nassau was wet and tempestuous, and a further warning was received from Washington that the hurricane was approaching Nassau.

100. By the aid of these timely warnings from Washington the inhabitants of Nassau had ample time for preparation, but it may well be doubted whether much would have been saved in the town and harbour if such a hurricane had found the island directly in its path.

101. By 10 p.m. on Friday the 11th, at Nassau, the wind, which had been increasing in violence since the morning, began to blow with hurricane force from the north-east, and continued all night; but on the morning of Saturday the 12th it veered to south-east, and, although the force was unabated, the barometer began to rise, and it became evident that the storm centre had passed to one side.

102. On the morning of Sunday the 13th, the storm was over, and steps were immediately taken to ascertain the extent of the damage suffered, and relieve those who had become temporarily homeless and destitute.

103. To that end a relief committee was appointed, and free rations issued, employment being given to all able-bodied persons of the labouring class in clearing the streets and roads, which were encumbered in every direction by fallen trees and boundary walls of loose stone and rubble, which are easily blown down in a gale.

104. That portion of the people living on the reverse side of the ridge which faces the harbour suffered chiefly from the mass of water which, having no outlet, and not having as yet had time to sink through the porous soil, flooded that quarter of the town during several days, but the people were very charitable to one another, and those whose homes were temporarily flooded or permanently destroyed were taken in and housed by their more fortunate neighbours.

105. There was every reason to fear that other islands had suffered more than New Providence, and the relief committee sent out three schooners loaded with provisions, under competent persons, with orders to proceed to Andros and Exuma, and to search all the uninhabited cays for ship-wrecked spongers.

106. Not many days passed before sad tales of disaster began to arrive, which were soon afterwards confirmed by the gentlemen who had been sent out to organise the relief; and it soon

appeared that the people of Andros were the greatest sufferers, the hurricane having passed central over the northern end of that island, and it was here, in the shallow seas, coral reefs, and mangrove swamps of a settlement called Red Bay that the greatest loss of life occurred, for the whole sponging fleet, excepting a few vessels belonging to Abaco, was in pursuit of its usual avocations, and had no warning of the approach of the storm, nor had the sailors any experience of cyclonic storms to guide their actions.

107. Consequently, many who were in comparative safety mistook the calm which denotes the vortex of a cyclone for the end of an ordinary storm, and spread themselves over the mud flats and reefs, seeking to save the sponge, and when the wind and waves returned with terrific force from the opposite quarter, they were overwhelmed and drowned without a chance of escape, very few bodies being recovered either here or elsewhere; two or three caught and held by the mangrove bushes, and one found in the hold of a wrecked vessel, were buried; the remainder being carried by tides and currents to the open sea.

108. There were seven settlements in the north of Andros in which 267 buildings were destroyed, groves of cocoanut trees laid flat, and crops wasted; and the population, numbering about 1,465 persons, were, at first, reported to be panic-stricken, but on the arrival and organisation of relief quickly rallied, and the houses, which were mostly of the cheapest construction, consisting of mud or rubble walls and thatched roofs, were soon replaced or repaired.

109. In the island of Exuma 77 buildings, of the same kind as described above, were blown down or damaged; 37 schooners and sloops wrecked, and 64 persons drowned along the shores; but the other large inhabited islands, Inagua, Eleuthera, San Salvador, Rum Cay, Watling's Island, Long Cay, and Acklin's Island, either escaped altogether or with very trifling loss.

110. Relief works were continued at Exuma and Andros for two or three months, but, before the end of the year, the labouring population had resumed their ordinary occupations, and but for the unprecedented loss of life and the material losses suffered by the sponging industry, the hurricane of August, 1899, might soon have passed out of mind.

111. When the returns were finally made up, it was shown that 259 persons (men and boys) had been drowned; and 254 sloops and schooners wrecked, of which 57 were totally lost, 67 slightly damaged, and 197 badly damaged, with an estimated loss to the owners of £16,000. The total expenditure by the Government on relief was £2,036.

112. The history of the storm is one of remarkable interest, having its commencement farther to the eastward, and its duration longer than any hurricane ever yet reported to the Hydrographic Office at Washington.

113. In the Pilot Chart of the North Atlantic Ocean, published at Washington September 1st, 1899, the track appears upon the chart as No. V., showing the position of the centre of the storm from August 7th to August 20th.

114. But it was first encountered by the British s.s. "Grangense," from Para to Liverpool, in latitude 11° 51″ N., longitude 35° 42″ W., on the 3rd August, and the Hydrographic Office, discussing the log of that vessel, showing changes of wind and weather and barometrical readings, describes it as a "little "storm which showed all the symptoms of a genuine West "Indian hurricane undeveloped," further stating that the master of the vessel, Captain Spedding, who had been in that particular trade from Europe to the River Amazon many years, and others on board who had been long acquainted with those regions, had never experienced any weather of a cyclonic description so far to the eastward before.

115. On the 7th August, at 8 a.m., the hurricane was passing to N.E. of Dominica, and at 3 p.m. was central near Montserrat, causing terrible destruction in that island; before noon on the 8th it had reached Puerto Rico, being central near Ponce at about noon, and was particularly destructive at that point and elsewhere along the southern coast; on the 9th, continuing in a north-westerly direction, the centre was off the north part of the island of Haiti; and on the 10th was reported northward of the eastern end of the island of Cuba, and re-curving to the north; thence, during the 11th August, passing over the Bahamas waters to the westward of the principal inhabited islands of the group, it reached the neighbourhood of Nassau on the 12th, being central over Red Bay, Andros Island; on the 13th the hurricane reached Jupiter, in Florida; and afterwards its path was parallel to the general trend of the American coast line, being most severe along the shore between Cape Lookout and Cape Henry, the centre there coming nearest to the main land. Vessels continued to report gales of hurricane force until the 19th, and when last reported, on the afternoon of the 21st, the hurricane was near latitude 40° N., longitude 60° W., much weakened in energy.

116. This storm travelled at the rate of twenty miles an hour from the 3rd to the 7th August; from Dominica to Puerto Rico at sixteen miles; and between Puerto Rico and the coast of Florida, it slowed down to nine miles, and from August 16th to 19th to three miles an hour.

117. The storm area was small throughout the course of this hurricane, increasing slightly as it reached the American coast; the shape of the area being roughly elliptical, the major axis approaching the direction of the path of the storm.

118. As regards velocity, the "Scientific American," in its number of 14th October, states from the records of the Weather Bureau Station at Hatteras that the greatest velocity occurred shortly after noon on August 17th, when the wind, which had been blowing at 70 miles an hour since four o'clock in the morning, increased to 93 miles an hour, with extreme velocities of from 120 to 140 miles an hour, at which time the anemometer cups were blown away, but the report states that the wind probably reached an even greater force from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. of that day.

EMPLOYMENT OF BAHAMAS LABOURERS ON STEAM VESSELS.

119. Steam-vessels continue to call at Inagua and at Fortune Island, Long Cay, to engage labourers for discharging and loading cargo at their ports of call, which include the ports of Jamaica; the principal ports of Haiti; Greytown and Bluefields, in Nicaragua; Livingston, in Guatemala; Tampico, in Mexico; Santa Marta; Colon; Panama; Puerto Cortez; and Cape Gracias, Honduras; and the ports of Cuba, viz., Havana, Santiago, Daiquiri, Cienfuegos, and Nuevitas.

120. There are British Consuls or Vice-Consuls at all of the above-named ports, and the engagements are all made under contract, under the supervision of the Resident Justices at Long Cay and Inagua respectively.

121. The Resident Justice of Long Cay reports that during the year 1899 111 steamers entered the port for labourers, and 2,234 men were employed as deck hands for unloading and loading cargoes at Jamaica, Haytien, Central American and Cuban ports; wages 2*s*. a day for ordinary hands, 2*s*. 6*d*. for carpenters, and 2*s*. 11*d*. for foremen, with overtime per hour at the rate of 5*d*. Fifty men were also engaged under six months' contracts for similar work at Panama, on the ships of the Panama Railroad Company, at much the same rates of wages.

The amount disbursed by the steamship companies at Long Cay is reckoned up as follows:—

	$
Amount of wages, 2,234 labourers ...	23,186·88
Amount of one month's advance to 50 men under contract to Panama Railroad Company	757·00
Incidental expenses relating to shipping the men	204·00

122. From the report of Mr. P. W. D. Armbrister, the Resident Justice, it appears that 69 steamships called at Inagua outward bound from American ports during the year, and engaged 2,952 labourers, of whom 2,188 were engaged for work on board ship, and 764 for work on docks or railways on the mainland. The Resident Justice furnishes the following detailed information:—"Labourers on steam-vessels are required to perform any "work they may be called upon to do. Pay of foremen $1 to "$1·25 a day; common labourers 50 cents, and on Sundays "double pay. Ten hours constitute a day's work; overtime "ten cents an hour. In addition to pay the men are supplied "with food. Pay begins upon embarkation, and ceases upon the "day of their return to Inagua. About 25% may be added to "the above-mentioned rates of pay as the average earnings "for overtime and Sunday work. Voyages last from ten to forty "days, according to destination of ship."

123. Regarding work on shore Mr. Armbrister states: "Three "hundred men are working for the Mexican Central Railway "Company at Tampico, Mexico, principally in loading and discharging ships and freight-cars; ordinary labourers receive "$16 per month, with free board and lodging, as well as the "usual amount for overtime and Sunday work; foremen receive about double the pay of ordinary labourers; the average "cash earnings of the men exceed $20 a month each. "One hundred and fifty of these men have made an arrangement with the Company to remit half of their wages to the "Inagua agent monthly. They have signed articles for one year. "About four hundred men are engaged in the mahogany district of Nicaragua, wood-cutting, for George D. Emery, of "Boston, U.S. The contracts are for nine months each. One "hundred and eight men also are at work in Guatemala, cutting "mahogany for an English company, represented by W. P. "Shadbolt, of Livingston, Guatemala; terms of service, twelve "months; wages in Nicaragua and Guatemala are about the "same as the labourers in Mexico receive. One hundred and "fifteen men were employed during a part of the year in iron "mines, at Daiquiri, Cuba, but all returned several months ago, "the work not being found congenial."

124. The steamers upon which the majority of the men are engaged are those of the Cameron Line, Munson Line, Tweedie Trading Company, and of George D. Emery, but occasional steamers also employ a considerable number of men.

PUBLIC WORKS.

125. A sum of £3,004 7*s.* 2*d.* was spent on providing new barracks for the constabulary, in the place of the military barracks, which were destroyed to make room for the new Colonial Hotel. The new barracks are solidly constructed of cut white stone, on a design very similar to that of the military barracks,

and are situated on the top of the ridge immediately outside of the gaol wall. There are also separate houses built as quarters for the Commandant and Sergeant-Major. The Government House also received a new slate roof in place of the old and decayed shingle, and was also repaired and painted at a total cost of £948 11*s*.

Future Prospects of Trade.

126. These were never more promising than at present, and there is room for the investment of capital in such enterprises as the fibre trade and the fruit trade, but the people of the Bahamas would like to see their fruit trade emancipated from the shackles of the heavy American import duties.

127. The following is an estimate of the amount of the duties levied on Bahamas fruit products last year, kindly furnished by the U.S. Consul:—

			$
On pine-apples	...	...	27,600
On oranges ...	...	...	1,200
On pomelo fruits	...	...	500
On canned pine-apples	...	...	8,400

making a total of $37,700.

128. Duties levied on sponges were estimated to have reached the sum of $47,151 dollars, but it is understood that this trade can take care of itself, markets in Europe being always open to take any quantities of the product at relatively higher profits to the seller than the American market offers.

129. With such aspirations making themselves felt in the public mind, and becoming more audibly expressed as time goes on, it is unfortunate that the Colony has just parted with $33,000 worth of duties on American produce, without waiting for negotiations, thus leaving a very small margin of reductions possible in the future.

General Condition of the Colony.

130. This is much more prosperous than it was five years ago, and the social condition of the people is improved Many causes have contributed to this desirable end, and chief amongst them may be mentioned the large amount of money spent in the place by the East Coast Florida Company whilst their big hotel was building; the influx of tourists during the winter months from Florida by steamers three times every week, and the general impetus to trade given by the new American connection.

J. S. Churchill,
Colonial Secretary.

20th June, 1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 327.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 298.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
July, 1901.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.,
and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, Edinburgh;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1901.

[Cd. 431-19.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
299	Sierra Leone	1899
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago	"
304	Straits Settlements	"
305	Gibraltar	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia	"
312	St. Vincent	"
313	Basutoland	1899–1900
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1899
322	Bermuda	1900
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 327.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 298.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR CHURCHILL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Nassau,
10th June, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1900, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

J. S. CHURCHILL,
Administrator.

9469—875—7/1901 Wt 25152 D & S—5

BAHAMAS, 1900.

REPORT ON THE BAHAMAS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

—	1900.	1899.
	£	£
Total Revenue	78,651	76,697
Total Expenditure	82,837	68,748

1. The excess of revenue as compared with that of the previous year was £1,954, whilst the expenditure shows an increase, when similarly compared, of £14,089.

2. The increased receipts were from import duties; the prime cost of articles imported having gone up, and the *ad valorem* duty being 20 per cent., such an increase in the value of imports has a marked influence on the revenue.

3. The increased expenditure is to be accounted for by the establishment of a sinking fund for reducing the public debt, the nucleus of which was formed by an allocation of £10,000 from invested surplus funds, and also by an increased expenditure on the improvement of the streets and buildings of Nassau to the amount of £2,931.

4. The heads of revenue and expenditure are given in the following tables, and the figures under each head are compared with those of 1899:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1900 and 1899.

Head of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1900.	Amount Collected in 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs	67,992 9 11	65,499 15 9	2,492 14 2	—
2. Port, harbour, and light dues	867 3 2	1,094 16 3	—	227 13 1
3. Licences and internal revenue not otherwise classified	2,823 3 8	2,887 0 10	—	63 17 2
4. Fees of court or office, payments for specific purposes, and reimbursements in aid.	2,632 14 8	1,372 17 2	1,259 17 6	—
5. Post office and telegraphs	2,301 11 3	3,813 7 0	—	1,511 15 9
6. Rents from Government property	135 0 0	170 0 0	—	35 0 0
7. Contributions to Widows and Orphans' Fund	204 19 5	225 4 6	—	20 5 1
8. Interest on investments under Surplus Monies Act, 1898	430 14 8	288 16 5	141 18 3	—
9. Miscellaneous receipts	1,263 7 7	1,345 13 11	—	82 6 4
	78,651 4 4	76,697 11 10	3,894 9 11	1,940 17 5
Investments realized	10,000 0 0	1,325 0 0	8,675 0 0	—
Transfer of stock of Sinking Fund of £5,000 loan	208 6 8	5,031 19 4	—	4,823 12 8
Total	88,859 11 0	83,054 11 2	12,569 9 11	6,764 10 1

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE, 1900 AND 1899.

Head of Service.	Expenditure, 1900.	Expenditure, 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	16,614 0 8	8,165 19 8	8,448 10 0	—
2. Pensions, Treasury	4,233 10 5	4,152 7 8	81 2 9	—
3. House of Assembly	676 11 9	539 15 1	136 16 8	—
4. Legislative Council	70 0 0	70 0 0	—	—
5. Governor and Staff	1,245 0 0	1,313 9 0	—	68 9 0
6. Colonial Secretary's Department	1,109 15 3	1,100 7 11	9 7 4	—
7. Receiver-General's Department	3,474 3 8	3,217 13 10	256 9 10	—
8. Judicial Department	6,114 17 2	5,921 10 0	193 7 2	—
9. Registrar's Department	505 8 0	490 16 0	14 12 0	—
10. Constabulary and Police	5,933 13 1	5,425 16 9	507 16 4	—
11. Fire Department	259 8 7	287 8 2	—	27 19 7
12. Surveyor-General's Department	336 10 0	368 4 6	—	31 14 6
13. Audit Department	350 0 0	350 0 0	—	—

14. Post Office Department	6,968 10 4	7,007 6 9	—	38 16 5
15. Telegraph and Telephone Department	1,071 19 3	1,212 14 10	—	140 15 7
16. Ecclesiastical Department	757 0 0	757 2 5	—	0 2 5
17. Education Department	6,000 0 0	4,750 0 0	1,250 0 0	—
18. Public Libraries	483 15 0	465 0 0	18 15 0	—
19. Port and Marine Department	1,831 16 11	1,674 5 11	157 11 0	—
20. Medical Department	583 0 6	633 9 10	—	50 9 4
21. Charitable Institutions	5,806 10 11	5,763 6 8	43 4 3	—
22. Prisons	1,569 1 9	1,750 16 1	—	181 14 4
23. Public Works	12,111 10 1	9,460 13 9	2,650 16 4	—
24. Miscellaneous	4,301 17 3	3,871 2 9	430 14 6	—
	82,408 0 7	68,748 18 7	14,199 3 2	540 1 2
Surplus Monies Act, 1897	115 2 3	501 19 9	—	386 17 6
Erection of new Barracks	314 1 11	3,231 19 6	—	2,917 17 7
Investment on account: surplus funds, 1898	—	11,077 8 1	—	11,077 8 1
Redemption of debentures...	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0
Total	82,837 4 9	88,560 5 11	14,199 3 2	19,922 4 4

5. The total revenue and expenditure of the last five years is given in the following table: —

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	65,126	60,134
1897	62,754	63,405
1898	74,382	64,148
1899	76,697	68,748
1900	78,651	82,837

6. The difference between the lowest of the annual receipts in this quinquennial period and those of 1900, which were the highest, is seen to be £15,897, and this increase of rather more than one-fifth appears on examination to be clearly due to increased commercial activity and general prosperity.

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The following is a tabular statement of the assets and liabilities on December 31st, 1900: —

Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Assets	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Cash in chest	6,925	9	8	On current accounts	1,824	15	1
Balance in hands of Out-island Collectors and in transit.	708	17	8	Savings Bank—due to depositors	15,237	17	1
Balance in hand of Crown Agents	5,924	14	8				
Investments on account, Surplus Funds	5,720	8	5				
Investments on account, Hotel Fund	8,177	6	10				
Cash on deposit, Hotel Fund	460	7	0				
Savings Bank—invested	14,262	10	11				
Savings Bank—with Crown Agents	892	19	0				
Savings Bank—balance cash	370	1	10				
Cable Repair Fund—invested	6,768	15	7				
Cable Repair Fund—cash	19	12	2				
Total	50,231	3	9	Total	17,062	12	2

Public Debt.

8. The Public Debt amounts to £112,226, more than half of which has been in course of redemption for the past fifteen years, either by annual drawing of six debentures of £100 each, as in the case of the loan of £35,000 raised in 1885, or by annual appropriations from General Revenue to Sinking Funds, but no provision has hitherto been made for the gradual extinction of the debt of £48,126, established by the "Debentures Act, 1888," for the consolidation of outstanding debts incurred at various times.

9. New debentures have been issued under the authority of the above-mentioned Act, bearing interest at 4 per cent., and were made redeemable after 35 years, and it was decided to make arrangements for a Sinking Fund which by the year 1923 should be adequate to redeem all the debentures, and accordingly an Act was passed entitled the "Debentures Redemption Act, 1900," by which £10,000 of surplus funds were transferred to the Sinking Fund created by the said Act, and provision was made for an annual payment of £900 from General Revenue.

10. The total investments at this date on account of Sinking Funds amount to £20,805 3*s.* 10*d.*, with balances in hand on same account of £43 5*s.*, making a total of £20,848 8*s.* 10*d.* to be set off, if it is desired to show the nett amount of the established Public Debt of the Colony, which will in that case be seen to be £91,378 8*s.* 10*d.*

11. The following is a tabular statement showing the particulars respecting the four separate loans which constitute the Public Debt, and the provision made in each case for payment:—

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT.

STATEMENT OF

Debt.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.
£ s. d. 28,100 0 0	Various persons	£4 10s. per cent.	In 1885.—The failure of the Nassau Public Bank to liquidate certain claims against the Government.
48,126 0 2	Various persons	£4 per cent.	In 1888.—For the purpose of reducing outstanding debentures which had from time to time been issued within these islands.
30,000 0 0	Various persons	£4 per cent.	January, 1892.—Telegraph communication between the Bahamas Islands and parts beyond the limits of the Colony.
6,000 0 0	—	£3 per cent.	1896.
£112,226 0 2			

PUBLIC DEBT.

Provision for payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and enactments by which it is made.	Amount of original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Principal and interest secured from General Revenue and Assets of the Colony. The interest on the total nominal amount of debentures issued under the Act and the Sinking Fund (10*s.* per centum on original debt) are paid half-yearl to the Crown Agents, and by them used in payment of the interest on outstanding debentures, expenses of advertisements, &c., and the remainder invested by them and applied towards reducing the debts either by purchase in the open market or by annual drawings. (48 & 49 Vic., cap. 24.)	35,000 0 0	6,900 0 0	Six debentures of £100 each are drawn for payment by the Crown Agents every year. The eleventh annual drawing took place in 1900.
Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury. Debentures redeemable 35 years after their respective dates, under Act 51 Vic., cap. 9. A Sinking Fund has been provided under the Debentures Redemption Act, 1900, by transferring for that purpose a sum of £10,000 from surplus funds and continuing with an annual contribution of £900 from Revenue.	48,126 0 2	—	—
£630 per annum paid out of Treasury to Crown Agents towards the Sinking Fund, interest payable quarterly. (55 Vic., cap. 1.)	30,000 0 0	—	—
58 Vic., cap. 1. £872 per annum paid out of thePublic Treasury towards the Sinking Fund.	6,000 0 0	—	—
	£124,126 0 0	£5,000, being balance of loan raised under 57 Vict., cap. 13, was paid off in October, 1899.	

Currency.

12. By the Act 2 Vic., cap. 4, passed in the year 1838, British sterling money was made the current money of the Colony, and all ordinary retail business is transacted with British silver and copper coinage, which are legal tender without any limit.

13. The Bank of Nassau has a note issue of £6,500, and its notes are in circulation throughout the Islands, but especially in Nassau.

14. American silver coins are current at the relative value of half a dollar for two shillings, and a quarter-dollar for one shilling.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Total value of imports	...	...	£335,269
Total value of exports	...	...	£172,317

15. For the purpose of ascertaining correctly the bearing upon trade questions of the import returns of this and the preceding year, it will be convenient to deduct the value of the specie and bullion imported for the Bank of Nassau, as well as of any imports of an exceptional character specially exempted from payment of import duties, and since specie to the amount of £27,667 was imported in 1900, and £20,874 was accounted for as free imports under Hotel and Steam Service Acts, 1898, the total value of the imports may be reduced by the amount of £48,541, and the actual value will appear as £286,728.

16. Following the same method with the returns of 1899, the total imports of that year will be decreased by the value of specie imported, viz., £20,583, and also by the amount of the special imports admitted free of duty under the Hotel and Steam Service Acts, viz., £43,477, so that the grand total will be reduced from £329,196 to £265,136.

17. Having thus prepared the way for an effective comparison, it will be seen that the actual value of imports in the ordinary course of trade was £286,728 during the year 1900, and £265,136 for the previous year, 1899, showing an increased importation in 1900 equal to £21,592 in value.

18. The following table exhibits in detail the chief articles imported, comparing the values with those of the preceding year, 1899:—

Article.	Value of Imports, 1899.	Value of Imports, 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Malt liquors	2,754	2,436	—	318
Spirituous liquors	5,893	7,126	1,233	—
Wines	944	1,435	491	—
Cotton, woollen, linen, and silk goods.	60,961	56,528	—	4,433
Earthenware and glassware, &c	58,732	47,102	—	11,630
Hardware, &c.	21,350	16,357	—	4,993
Preserved fruit, fish, meats, &c.	15,545	18,630	3,085	—
Flour	25,122	28,264	3,142	—
Salt meat and fish	11,014	14,312	3,298	—
Butter and cheese	7,025	7,871	846	—
Corn meal and hominy ...	8,550	8,414	—	136
Rice	6,813	6,911	98	—
Lard	2,774	3,733	959	—
Fresh meat	1,484	4,038	2,554	—
Potatoes and onions... ...	1,422	1,173	—	249
Tea	591	770	179	—
Coffee...	1,424	2,121	697	—
Sugar...	10,172	11,425	1,253	—
Lumber	12,161	9,619	—	2,542
Shingles	2,214	3,070	856	—
Hay, oats, and maize ...	3,294	8,671	377	—
Soap	1,427	1,667	240	—
Cigars and tobacco	5,562	5,913	351	—
Kerosene oil	2,680	3,358	678	—
Machinery	6,094	8,912	2,818	—

BAHAMAS, 1900.

19. There is nothing to call for any special remark in the above statement; the considerable decrease in imports of textile goods, earthenware, hardware, lumber, &c., is due to the partial cessation of imports under the Hotel and Steam Service Acts, and the increase under other heads to the increased consumption of common necessaries caused by the influx of winter visitors and the better pecuniary condition of the working classes.

20. The textile fabrics of the United Kingdom still hold their own and rather more in the Bahamas market; as also the trade in alcoholic liquors; otherwise, the imports consist chiefly of American food-stuffs and manufactures produced in America and imported thence direct by the fortnightly steamers of the New York and Cuba Line, and by the S.S. "Antilia" of the Bahamas Steamship Line.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL VALUES OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF GOODS IMPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM RESPECTIVELY IN 1899 AND 1900.

Description of Goods.	1899.		1900.	
	United States.	United Kingdom.	United States.	United Kingdom.
	£	£	£	£
Cotton, linen, woollen, and silk goods.	29,979	27,101	26,430	29,101
Earthenware, glassware, furniture.	27,463	5,495	38,958	7,292
Tinware, hardware, &c. ...	4,875	1,906	14,205	1,903
Preserved fruits, fish, &c. ...	11,428	3,490	14,020	4,163
Ale and porter	1,495	1,259	1,009	1,427
Spirituous liquors	603	1,720	398	1,630
Wines	—	—	722	607
Soap	1,383	36	1,489	46
Sugar refined	—	—	2,914	1,535
Sugar unrefined	—	—	22	5,966

21. The total value of the exports (almost entirely consisting of the produce of the Colony) during the past year exceeded

that of the year preceding by the amount of £3,169, as shown hereunder:—

Total value of exports in 1900	...	£172,317
Total value of exports in 1899	...	£169,148

22. The principal export is sponge, and the fruit trade comes next in importance, and, after that, the export of sisal fibre; these practically exhaust the list of Bahamas products, as the exports of salt, shell, bark, and hardwoods is so trifling as scarcely to be worth notice.

23. The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports for the year 1900 and preceding year, excepting those of pineapples in 1899, the returns of which have been found to be so inaccurate that they are here omitted:—

—	Exports in 1899.		Exports in 1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sponge	lbs. 1,124,585	£ 84,003	lbs. 1,165,406	£ 104,219
Pineapples... ...	Nos. —	—	Nos. 7,233,012	59,191
Citrus fruits ...	570,427	1,600	1,564,962	2,777
Sisal fibre	lbs. 1,358,682	16,942	lbs. 1,276,037	16,246

24. The entire crop of fruit is consigned to New York or Baltimore, but a certain proportion of the sponge, sisal fibre, and shell exported finds its way to the United Kingdom, as shown in the subjoined table:—

—	United States.		United Kingdom.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sponge	lbs. 850,141	£ 74,287	lbs. 115,936	£ 7,461
Sisal hemp	1,228,335	15,467	47,702	779
Turtle shell	1,712	1,028	5,182	3,353

25. The annexed return shows the total imports and exports for the last five years.

BAHAMAS, 1900.

RETURN OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1896 TO 1900, INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Value of Total Imports and Exports.
	£	£	£
1896	194,774	138,972	333,746
1897	186,010	149,085	335,095
1898	238,336	174,860	413,196
1899	329,196	169,148	498,344
1900	335,269	172,317	507,586

Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

26. In connexion with the purely agricultural industry of raising pineapples and other fruit for export, there are factories for turning out the tinned fruit, and of these factories one is to be found in Nassau, New Providence, three at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, and one at Rock Sound, Eleuthera. At the Nassau factory the whole process is conducted in covered sheds on the wharf, so that the fruit can be landed from the schooners and at once placed on the tables to pass through the several stages by which the whole fruit is converted into the tinned product ready for export with incredible speed. The rind is first removed by hand, and the core is immediately afterwards scooped out by a machine, and the fruit cut up into discs, which are then fitted into round tins of corresponding size. Sugar is added, and the tins are then soldered up, labelled, and packed in cases for export. The refuse is thrown into the harbour, and, as the tide ebbs and flows twice daily with a very strong current, there is no inconvenient result from this practice. Mr. Parr, the Resident Justice of the Governor's Harbour district in Eleuthera, reported, at the end of June, 1900, that more pineapples had been exported that season than in any former season. The exports from that port alone consisted of 220,300 dozen, as against 197,990 dozen in 1899, and 5,630 dozen were shipped to Nassau for factory use, as against 11,600 in 1899, but the factories at Governor's Harbour itself are now packing on a more extended scale. A rough estimate of the number of pineapples used at the two factories (Governor's Harbour) would account for another 40,000 dozen. Even before the close of the season 4,511 cases of canned pineapples had been exported to America from Bowles' factory, valued at £2,245.

Sisal Factories.

27. There are also factories for extracting the fibre of the Agave Sisalana, four of which are being operated in the island of New Providence, three in the island of Abaco, two in the island of Inagua, and two at Andros Island. One of the plantations in the island of Abaco has recently been destroyed by fire, with the exception of the buildings. Fields of vegetable produce adjoining the plantation were also destroyed by the fire, which started in the pine barrens on the south side of the island and was supposed to have had its origin in the careless use of matches or cooking fires, a very common incident in the dry season.

28. The island of Inagua is one of the principal seats of this industry, and the present outlook may be gathered from the following remarks made by Mr. P. W. D. Armbrister, the Resident Justice:—

"The outlook for this industry is encouraging. Although "the number of acres under cultivation (2,200) remains the "same as in 1899, yet a large amount of work has been done "in replanting old sections and improving the plantations "generally. One new Todd machine and a 16 h.p. oil engine "were imported during the year. 123,300 lbs. of fibre were "cleaned and exported, the declared value of which was "£2,110.

"At the factory of the Standard Sisal Hemp Company it "is a common occurrence for a Todd machine to turn out "1,400 lbs. of fibre in a day. To do this four ordinary farm "waggons are required to supply the machine with leaves, "ten men in the field cutting, and eight hands in the factory, "making a total of 23 hands at work, including the engineer. "The total cost with that Company of extracting fibre, baling "same, and making it ready for shipment, amounts, on an "average, to a little less than £14 a ton. I have been informed "by the local manager that the before-mentioned Company "intends to largely extend its plantation during 1901.

"The manager of the plantation of the Bahamas (Inagua) "Fibre Company informs me that their average output (while "working) is 1,200 lbs. of fibre a day from one Todd machine. "When the machine is running, fifty hands are kept steadily "at work, viz., thirty cutting leaves, and twenty in the factory "and baling room, besides five waggons with their mules and "drivers. The cost of extracting fibre and baling same, in "the opinion of the local manager, does not exceed £10 "per ton."

Mr. Armbrister also reported, at the end of June, that the Standard Sisal Hemp Company had extended its plantation by the inclusion of 500 acres of new land.

BAHAMAS, 1900.

29. It is characteristic of this industry that the process for extracting the fibre which is carried out rapidly in the factory can be imitated by hand, but only, of course, at an expense of time and labour which would be prohibitive if carried out on a commercial scale. To a peasantry, however, often at their wits' end for a means of subsistence, the sale to the factories of their hand-cleaned fibre is quite a providential resource at times when agricultural produce is scarce, and the necessity consequently for earning a little money becomes urgent.

30. Mr. Forsyth, the Resident Justice of the large island of Andros Island, reports that the hand cleaning of fibre is become quite an industry, and has added the following remarks:—

"The process of cleaning is first to split the leaves on the "flat with a sharp knife, tie them in bundles, and place them "in the sea to soak for from two to three weeks, then beat and "wash until clean, and hang out to bleach.

"Under Governor Shea's administration many of the people "set out from a dozen to a hundred plants in their own yards, "also on Crown land, and at the south part of the island "Geo. R. Johnson, Esq., and the J. S. Johnson Co. had sisal "plantations which, owing to the low price of fibre a few "years ago and want of means, were abandoned. The fibre "which survived the neglect is now being cleaned by the "people, by hand, on shares.

"Messrs. Roberts and Sutton, who have taken up and placed "a cleaning machine on the Butler and Bode sisal plantation "at Long Bay Cays, have been also buying hand-cleaned "fibre from the people. The J. S. Johnson Co. also have a "man buying hand-cleaned fibre. Others, again, take the "fibre across to Nassau, where, I understand, they find a ready "market."

31. It is unfortunate that in the island of San Salvador some hand cleaning of fibre has been performed in stagnant waters in the proximity of settlements or private dwellings, and the exhalations from the decaying vegetable matter have been pronounced not only disagreeable but insanitary and fever producing, and this has created a prejudice against the whole system, but it is evident that nothing could be more easily regulated, as tidal waters are nearly everywhere to be found, and there is, therefore, no necessity to make use of a land-locked lagoon, neither is there any necessity for carrying on such work close to a village where miles of uninhabited coast line exist.

Salt.

32. The salt pans of Inagua are now scarcely ever used, and only 37,857 bushels of salt, valued at £473, were exported in 1900. This industry, once flourishing, met with a decisive check by a catastrophe which occurred about twenty years ago,

heavy floods having at that time washed away the salt, and spoilt the pans. The Resident Justice shows in the remarks which follow that the adverse conditions have long ago been remedied.

"This once most important industry is almost dead. It "appears that the proprietors of ponds, and others whose in- "terests were once bound up in the salt trade, having taken to "other occupations, are now either unable or unwilling to "return to the old business of salt raking. It seems clear that "outside capital and energy are needed to revive the salt trade "of Inagua.

"The truth of the matter is that the people are too well "contented at present to feel the need of developing the resources "of the island. Several vessels have recently called to purchase "salt, but could not obtain cargoes, and were compelled to "go elsewhere. It is not that prices offered were unremuner- "ative, as salt is worth very much more now than it was "even a year ago. Few persons here deny that the business "would give reasonable returns; nearly all admit that there "would be a fair margin of profit. The ponds are in good "condition, and a comparatively small outlay would be sufficient "to start the business again. Money and energy, however, "are lacking; and unless salt making is revived by means of "foreign capital, I fear that it will completely die out. It is "a matter for much regret that an industry once so profitable, "and upon which such large sums of money have been spent "in road-making, tramways, buildings, and improvements, "should needlessly go to ruin. The persons engaged in salt "making (on a small scale) inform me that the water is now "as pure as it ever was, and that the quality of salt "raked is equal to the best that the ponds produced when the "industry was at its height."

33. Mr. Armbrister also gives the following account of the Inagua salt ponds, and the accident which befel them and discouraged the trade:—

"The salt ponds are of great extent. They were splendidly "laid out, from 25 to 30 years ago, at an enormous expense, "and are in very good condition now. The decline of our "salt business is not entirely due to small prices offered for "that article, but may be attributed mainly to four causes, "as follows, viz.:—

"(*a*) About 20 years ago there was a flood, occasioned by "heavy rains, that brought vast quantities of vegetable matter "from the interior of the island and deposited it in the pond, "causing the water to become diseased. In consequence of "the water being impure the cost of salt production was almost "doubled for many years, causing great losses to the persons "concerned.

BAHAMAS, 1900.

"(*b*) One by one the old salt manufacturers either died "or quitted the island, and the rolling stock belonging to "tramway companies became unfit for use.

"(*c*) In the meantime the labour contract business was started, "steamers began calling here, and the rate of wages advanced. "Labourers were no longer compelled to depend on salt raking "as a means of livelihood, and manufacturers could not afford "to employ them in the ponds.

"(*d*) Salt vessels gradually ceased coming for that article, "so that, at the present time, the demand for Inagua salt is "reduced to a minimum."

Mr. Armbrister states that the "two things now needed in "order to revive the business are capital and a market." These are two very important factors in most industries, and it is to be feared that they may continue to be wanting to this particular industry for some time to come, as the business seems to be too small to attract foreign capital and offers no inducement to the local capitalist engaged in more profitable ventures. Such as it is, however, it may be as well to bring this opportunity for investment persistently to the notice of the public, and, in addition to the particulars already given, it should be stated that a comparatively small amount of capital would be sufficient to put everything in working order, and enable Inagua to compete with the island of Grand Turk in salt producing, and also that there is no danger of a repetition of the damage formerly occasioned by the inundation of the salt pans by storm waters, because, after the last accident happened, the Government built a dam which effectually prevents anything of the kind happening again.

Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations

34. The conversion of the four or five acres of limestone rock, which formed a part of the grounds of the Government House, into cultivable soil has now been completed, with very successful results. The grounds possess a well with an almost inexhaustible supply of water, which appears to be free from any brackish admixture, as the plants thrive under it, and irrigation is practised by means of a windmill pump, which raises the water into an iron tank elevated above the surface of the ground about forty feet, from which pipes conduct the water all over the grounds. It can hardly be said, at present, that a botanical station has been formed, but a very good head gardener has been engaged, and if the scheme continues to meet with a fair measure of pecuniary support from the Legislature, there is every reason to hope that an institution useful to the agricultural interests may be inaugurated. Already some economic plants have been introduced and experiments are being conducted.

35. But apart from the commercial undertakings which are primarily dependent upon agriculture, there is also that more primitive form of tilling the earth and sowing the seed which enters into the daily life of the people and upon which their subsistence largely depends. The principal crop used for food is corn, either Indian corn or Guinea corn; the latter is reported to have stood a drought best, and to have been in flourishing condition when the Indian corn was lost, and it is equally nutritious, but the Indian corn is considered to be the staple product. Next to corn in importance come yams and sweet potatoes, cassava, and various leguminous plants. All these crops are subject to injury by insect pests, but the most inimical influence is that of drought or absence of rain at the proper season, under which the most sensitive plants wither away.

36. The peas, pumpkins, water melons, and other running vines are often to be found in a most healthy condition after suitable rains, but will shortly afterwards be subjected to the attacks of flies, which are apt to destroy them entirely. Corn, which is the most valuable crop, becomes subject to the attacks of weevils and ants almost immediately after it is shelled, and the inconvenience and loss caused by this tendency has been made very clear by Mr. Duncombe, the Resident Justice of the island of San Salvador, in the following remarks:—

"Unless a summer crop is obtained, for which plentiful "rains from April to July are necessary, but most uncommon, "the same conditions as existed during the last months of 1900 "will prevail during the same period of 1901. This means that "from March to June in each year corn (and other ground "produce) is plentiful and cheap, and from July to January "or February scarce and dear. In the former period it will "sell for 2*s.* 6*d.* per bushel, in the latter it can hardly be bought "for 7*s.* or 8*s.*

"The chief cause which tends to produce these fluctuations "in the market is the liability of corn to the attacks of insects. "It must be disposed of within a certain short time of the "harvest, at any price. Consequently the market is glutted "with native corn in harvest time, and wholly dependent upon "American grain two or three months after.

"At one period our corn is sold for 50 per cent. less than for "what it can be imported, but at a loss, and at another it "is unprocurable. If some cheap and simple method could be "devised by which corn could be preserved from the attacks "of insects, the market would be more regular, and with the "existing tariff the native grown corn could compete with "the foreign, and its cultivation on a larger and more system-"atic scale would be the result.

"There is a method in use among the natives by which corn "on the ear can be preserved to a certain extent. It is thrown "into a stone bin and covered with dry sand, but, unfortun-"ately, it cannot be shipped in that state for obvious reasons."

BAHAMAS, 1900.

37. As the American corn is very much harder, and sprouts much less readily than the native corn when sown, it is possible that it may be kiln dried, or perhaps exposed to sun heat as a hardening process, whereas the native corn may be reaped in an immature state for the sake of getting the green fodder, and, on that account, be more liable to the attacks of insects.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

38. Sales of Crown lands are made on the authority of the Governor, who is advised by the Surveyor-General as to the value of the land and other matters affecting the transfer from the Crown to the purchaser. Prices for agricultural land are not fixed, but vary greatly, according to the supposed value of different lands, ranging from 5*s.* to 16*s.* an acre and 35*s.* for town lots.

39. The total number of acres remaining ungranted is stated to be 1,768,587, but of this large area very little is available for settlement, the greater part consisting of barren rock and swamp, and in the islands of Andros and Abaco many square miles consist of pine barren.

40. The Abaco pine barrens have been leased recently to persons who profess to have discovered that a good commercial profit can be made out of them by means of the lumbering or pulp business, but no steps towards the accomplishment of their ideas are observable up to the present.

41. There are still some small patches of good land ungranted in Andros, Abaco, Inagua, Mayaguana, and Acklin's Island, and in the other islands small tracts of fairly good land, but no complete survey has been undertaken at any time by the Crown for the purpose of ascertaining where and of what area parcels of Crown land of good quality are to be found.

42. Eighteen grants were issued during the year, comprising a total of 265½ acres, mostly in very small patches.

Shipping.

43. There is a decrease of about one-fourth in the number of sailing ships entered and cleared in Bahamas ports as compared with the previous year, as may be seen by the following tabular return:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE NUMBERS AND TONNAGE OF SAILING VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED IN 1900 AND 1899.

Nationality.	1900.				1899.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	144	10,439	145	10,512	196	12,834	193	12,018
American ...	79	10,587	77	10,534	80	10,169	85	11,209
Spanish ...	1	25	5	102	1	25	—	—
Haytian ...	22	240	20	228	64	1,335	60	1,234

44. The following table contains principally the statistical record of the entries and clearances of steamers calling at Long Cay and Inagua to pick up and return labourers engaged for the voyage. The American steamers of the Ward Line figure 26 times yearly as entering and clearing, and also the steamers of the Florida Line account for 35 entries and clearances.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE NUMBERS AND TONNAGE OF STEAMERS ENTERED AND CLEARED DURING 1900 AND PRECEDING YEAR.

Nationality.	1900.				1899.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		[illegible]ed.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	118	246,148	118	246,145	115	207,274	114	198,799
American ...	101	141,677	100	140,759	121	173,661	123	183,178
German	19	23,142	20	24,343	29	38,972	30	39,739
Norwegian ...	135	120,983	134	120,139	47	44,064	47	44,097
Dutch	4	3,970	4	3,970	—	—	—	—

BAHAMAS, 1900.

45. The following table shows a steady increase in the number of ships and the amount of the total tonnage year by year, which has never been interrupted, from the year 1896 to 1900 inclusive:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL SHIPPING INWARDS AND OUTWARDS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total Number of Vessels.		Total Tonnage.		Total Vessels and Tonnage.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1896	490	494	217,719	218,859	984	436,578
1897	560	562	261,042	257,175	1,122	518,217
1898	595	597	371,878	369,644	1,192	741,522
1899	657	655	489,149	490,670	1,312	979,819
1900	623	619	557,211	556,655	1,242	1,113,866

III.—LEGISLATION.

46. The Legislature met on the 7th February, and was prorogued on the 11th May, and during the Session twenty-three Acts, inclusive of the Annual Appropriation Act, were passed.

47. The following five Acts may be mentioned as the measures of most importance, viz., the Acts 63 Vic., cap. 4, and 63 Vic., cap. 15, by which two new offices are created, and the Civil Establishment increased by the appointment, in the first mentioned Act, of an Officer to be Secretary to the Board of Education, and, in the latter, of a Medical Officer for the island of Inagua; the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, prohibiting the use of dynamite for destroying fish in all Colonial waters; the Act 63 Vic., cap. 7, making provision for establishing a Sinking Fund to pay off the Treasury debentures issued under the Debentures Act, 1888, by setting aside out of the surplus monies a sum of £10,000, and appropriating annually £900 of the General Revenue; and the Act 63 Vic., cap. 17, by which the annual contribution to the Imperial Institute, in respect of the space allotted therein to Colonial products, has been definitely settled as to amount and made a fixed annual charge on the Colonial Treasury.

IV.—EDUCATION

48. The Inspector reports that education was retarded generally throughout the Colony by the prevalence of ailments of an epidemic character diminishing the attendance, and in many instances disabling the teachers for long periods, but that, notwithstanding these drawbacks, the results obtained have been reasonably satisfactory.

49. The number of days' work done in all the Board Schools was 8,918, giving an average of 207½ to each, and the average percentage of passes in the four test subjects was 73.5, as against 79 for each of the two preceding years, when the examinations were held after a full year's work.

50. It is calculated that the average age of school children attending the Board Schools is under ten years (scarcely more than one quarter of the scholars being twelve years and over), and that they lose a day and a half per week, thus reducing their school time to little more than thirteen hours.

51. The disadvantage incurred by a large proportion of the children by such a curtailment of their school time is further enhanced by the absence of any help, stimulus, or encouragement at home, so that the setting of home lessons becomes useless, and when they leave school they have little or no means or opportunity for further improvement, or for the use and retention of what they have already acquired.

52. A comparison of educational statistics for 1900 and the previous year will be found in the following statement:—

—	1899.	1900.
Number of schools wholly maintained out of the annual grant.	44	43
Number of schools which received grants in aid ...	11	11
Number of pupils who attended Board Schools during some portion of the year.	7,074	6,935
Number of pupils who attended the Assisted Schools during some portion of the year.	1,061	1,020
Number of names on the rolls (Board Schools) ...	5,772	5,776
Number of names on the rolls (Assisted Schools)...	952	919
Average attendance (Board Schools)	4,001·4	3,917
Average attendance (Assisted Schools)	575	569
Total number of schools	55	54
Number of scholars present during some portion of the year.	8,090	7,955
Total names on the rolls	6,724	6,695
Average attendance	4,577·4	4,486

BAHAMAS, 1900

53. The ordinary expenditure of the Education Department for 1900 amounted to £4,800, showing an average cost for each school of £88 17*s.* 9*d.*, and for each child in average attendance £1 1*s.* 5*d.*

54. No portion of the grant of £1,250 for erecting new school-houses and teachers' quarters was expended during the year, the preliminary investigations of title before acquiring sites, and the drawing up of specifications and estimates before entering into building contracts, having scarcely been brought to an end before the end of the year.

55. The Blue Book returns show a total number of 9,178 children under tuition, of whom the greater number are pupils of the Board Schools, as shown in the following table:—

Description of School.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government schools	2,984	2,792	5,776
Aided Private schools	486	433	919
Other Private schools	1,126	1,357	2,483

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, Poor Houses.

56. The institution called the New Providence Asylum contains within its precincts a Hospital, an Infirmary or Poor House, a Leper Asylum, and a Lunatic Asylum, and is under the immediate charge of a Resident Surgeon Superintendent, and an Assistant Surgeon who attends to the out-patients department, the management being conducted by a governing body styled the Board of Commissioners, who report annually to the Governor and Legislature.

57. The report would be more useful if the component parts of this institution were made the subjects of separate reports, but dealing with the institution as a whole, the report shows that 141 persons remained on 31st December, 1899, and, as 360 cases were admitted during 1900, the total number of persons under treatment during the year amounted to 501, and the daily average number of patients was 140.

58. On reference to the subjoined table it will be noticed that the admissions were fewer by the number 106 as compared with the previous year, and fewer than at any previous period during five years past, but the number of deaths was exactly the same as in 1899.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND DEATHS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.
1896	404	292	108	137
1897	427	341	83	140
1898	400	298	100	142
1899	466	273	94	141
1900	360	275	94	132

59. In the out-patients department 784 new patients were visited at their own homes by the Assistant Surgeon, besides the patients prescribed for in the hospital, of whom the numbers are shown in the subjoined comparative statement.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF NEW PATIENTS AND THE NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED IN THE OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	New Patients.	Prescriptions.
1896	4,326	8,930
1897	3,191	6,291
1898	3,768	6,258
1899	3,699	9,326
1900	3,132	7,714

60. Of the cases admitted during the year 59 required surgical treatment, viz., local injuries such as fractures, &c., to the

number of 33, and surgical operations such as amputations and removals of foreign bodies, &c., to the number of 26.

61. There were 25 lunatics remaining in the Asylum at the close of 1899, and during the year 1900 17 were admitted, of whom 11 were males and 6 females, and the daily average throughout the year was 28, viz., 13 males and 15 females. Amongst the lunatics there were 12 deaths, and 7 are stated to have been discharged cured.

62. Besides the inmates of the Poor House, 126 paupers in the island of New Providence and 99 in the out-lying islands were in receipt of out-door relief.

63. The total expenditure on this institution amounted to £4,578 1*s.* 2*d.*, of which sum £132 14*s.* 7*d.* was spent on alcoholic stimulants, and £466 10*s.* on medical and surgical requisites.

Savings Bank.

64. This Government institution is incorporated with the Post Office, and has more than doubled its sphere of action in the past ten years.

65. The following table shows the transactions for 1900, and offers a means of comparing them with those of the nine previous years:—

Statement of Post Office Savings Bank Transactions from 1891 to 1900.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited during the Year.	Withdrawals.	Interest added to Accounts.	Balance due December 31.	Assets.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	686	2,622 11 0	2,258 19 10	123 7 3	7,255 9 6	6,696 7 5
1892	767	3,386 4 0	3,182 1 7	119 16 6	7,579 8 5	7,126 17 11
1893	839	3,307 10 0	3,018 8 7	134 6 1	8,002 15 11	7,663 7 9
1894	881	3,804 19 0	3,914 13 2	137 19 8	8,031 1 5	7,797 0 5
1895	950	3,905 5 8	3,086 16 0	149 14 8	8,603 5 9	8,465 14 9
1896	1,017	4,210 15 0	3,767 10 3	161 15 3	9,208 5 9	9,178 18 7
1897	1,051	4,157 3 11	4,041 6 9	199 2 5	9,523 5 4	9,588 6 5
1898	1,107	4,806 11 11	4,144 5 5	230 5 2	10,415 17 0	10,523 9 8
1899	1,240	7,205 1 0	4,822 12 10	270 11 1	13,068 16 3	13,277 0 10
1900	1,350	7,591 8 3	5,752 15 7	323 8 2	15,237 17 1	15,525 11 9

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

66. The number of persons reported to the magistrate or arrested by the police was 1,048, being 131 in excess of the numbers of the previous year, and the charges were principally for:—

Assaults and fighting	166
Indecent conduct and language	189
Breaches of Street Traffic Acts and other Municipal Regulations	366

Prisons.

67. The total number of persons committed to prison was 188, of whom 156 suffered penal imprisonment, and of these 35 had been previously convicted and 45 were habitual criminals.

68. Of the 156 persons who were committed for penal imprisonment, 97 were men, 55 women, and 4 juveniles.

69. The punishments inflicted numbered 113, but there was only one case of flogging, and that punishment was inflicted for an assault on a sick nurse and a warder, occasioning actual bodily harm.

70. There were two escapes of prisoners whilst working outside the walls, one of whom only was recaptured.

71. The sanitary condition of the prison has been very good.

Criminal Statistics.

72. The number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts by arrest, warrant, or summons was 2,636, an increase as compared with the previous year's number of 118.

73. The cases were disposed of as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence	226
Dismissed on the merits	438
Summarily convicted	1,944
Committed for trial	28

74. With regard to the 1,944 summary convictions, the punishments inflicted were—fines, 1,449; imprisonment, 166; peremptory imprisonment, 108; whipping, 86; binding over with or without sureties, 135.

75. The classes of offences for which these punishments were inflicted comprised 237 offences against the person, and 106 against property, the remaining 1,601 are not classed under

any special head, and consisted chiefly of breaches of education laws, street traffic regulations, and other municipal bye-laws.

76. The following table shows an abstract of the criminal statistics of the past four years:—

——	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	2,605	2,468	2,508	2,636
Number of summary convictions:—				
For offences against the person...	270	238	246	237
For prædial larceny	33	48	37	31
For offences against property, other than prædial larceny.	69	78	80	76
For other offences	1,399	1,451	1,460	1,600
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts:—				
For offences against the person...	5	13	10	7
For prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
For offences against property, other than prædial larceny.	7	20	15	12
For other offences	—	—	1	2
The number of persons acquitted:—				
In the Inferior Courts	509	392	464	438
In the Superior Courts	17	16	21	8

77. Concerning the proceedings in the Superior Courts, the Attorney-General remarks as follows:—

"The number of criminal informations filed during the year "was 29, as against 46 in the previous year and 50 in the "year 1898.

"In the January Sesions there was a case of larceny in a "dwelling-house, and two others, (1) of an assault occasioning "bodily harm, (2) unlawful wounding, in which convictions "followed.

"In the April Sessions there were three cases of an ordinary "character, and one conviction.

"In the July Sessions prosecutions were sustained for arson, "for forgery, and for several offences, both against the person "and property, of the usual character.

"In the October Sessions a further conviction for arson was "obtained, and a sentence of penal servitude imposed. This "offence is peculiarly rife in this Colony. Several other "convictions were obtained, chiefly in cases of larceny."

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

78. The decennial census was taken on the 14th April, 1901, but the results are not yet known:—

The estimated population for the year 1900 is	55,512
The births during the year 1900 numbered	2,034
The deaths during the year 1900 numbered	1,231

showing an excess of births over deaths of 803, the average birth and death rate per thousand being 42·7 for births and 25·3 for deaths.

Public Health.

79. The Medical Inspector reports that the general state of health was fairly good throughout the year, but influenza, measles, and whooping cough prevailed in epidemic form during part of the year, the ordinary autumnal fevers, however, were mild in type, and less prevalent than usual.

Sanitation.

80. The general sanitary conditions are reported to have been very satisfactory, the water supply from springs and cisterns having been abundant, and the drainage good.

Climate.

81. The rainfall, temperature, and direction and force of wind are shown in the subjoined tabular statement.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR.

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar maximum.	Minimum on grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity.	General direction.	Average force.
	°		°	°	°	°				
January	140·0	Not taken.	77·4	66·1	11·3	71·8	·91	70·0	E.	5·2
February	146·3		75·1	63·8	11·3	69·5	1·47	71·0	E.	5·5
March ...	155·7		77·9	67·9	10·0	72·9	3·27	68·0	E.	4·7
April ...	155·0		81·7	71·3	10·4	76·5	·49	76·0	S.E.	5·9
May ...	150·0		84·5	74·1	10·4	79·3	7·37	74·0	N.E.	4·3
June ...	156·0		88·4	74·7	13·7	81·6	2·51	72·0	E.	3·8
July ...	160·3		89·4	75·1	14·3	82·3	6·68	72·0	E.	4·3
August ...	160·0		90·6	75·8	14·8	83·2	2·64	65·0	E.	4·4
September	154·7		88·5	72·4	16·1	80·5	14·51	72·0	E.	4·5
October...	144·0		85·5	73·8	11·7	79·7	8·32	65·0	N.E.	6·0
November	142·3		80·3	66·1	14·2	73·2	1·41	67·1	N.E.	10·0
December	140·0		80·1	63·3	16·8	71·7	1·74	68·0	N.E.	7·3

BAHAMAS, 1900.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Postal Service.

82. The Post Office receipts amounted to £2,628 16*s.* 1*d.*, and were derived from the following sources:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sales of postage stamps within the Colony	1,728	19	1
Postage	203	8	2
Sea postage allowance from United States	474	12	10
Other receipts	221	16	0
Total	£2,628	16	1

83. The Post Office expenses amounted to £2,068 5*s.* 2*d.*, which may be sub-divided as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries (including district postmasters)	716	10	0
General expenses	289	15	2
Inter-insular carriage of mails ...	1,062	0	0
Total	£2,068	5	2

84. Annual subsidies were also paid to steamship lines connecting with the American Continent, viz.:—

New York-Cuba Line	£1,500
Miami-Nassau Line	£3,500

85. The subjoined statement is a summary of the purely postal business of the department, which is chiefly in connexion with the United States.

STATEMENT OF LETTERS &C., RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED DURING THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1900.

	Received.				Despatched.			
	Letters	Post Cards.	News.	Books	Letters.	Post Cards.	News	Books
United Kingdom	24,151	543	12,884	18,117	18,311	206	4,952	657
United States ...	79,746	1,743	28,859	21,670	65,316	1,675	3,935	1,454
Other Countries	223	5	34	22	10,081	199	3,287	853
Inter-insular ...	21,927	64	256	482	22,188	242	9,106	6,885
Total ...	126,047	2,355	42,033	40,291	115,896	2,322	21,280	9,849

86. The business transacted by means of the Parcels Mails has attained to four times its original dimensions during the past ten years, having increased by a steady annual progression from the number of 955 parcels handled in 1891 to the number of 4,197 parcels handled in 1900, showing how this branch of the postal business has been gradually appreciated and turned to use by increasing numbers of the public.

87. The money order transactions comprised in orders issued and paid a total number of 2,094, with a total value of £3,269 18*s.* 8*d.*, and comparing these figures with those of previous years it is found that the business is nearly stationary, showing that the institution suffices to meet the convenience of the public for the remittance of small sums of money, but is not turned to illegitimate uses by being made the vehicle for the remittance of large sums in competition with the bank.

88. The premium of four per cent. on remittances which has wisely been fixed and maintained in this Colony for the Post Office rate is, of course, much higher than bank rates, and there is, therefore, no inducement to evade the Post Office rule which limits the amount of any single Post Office order to £10, as it is commonly evaded in Colonies where the Post Office rate is fixed too low.

Telegraph Service.

89. The telegraph line from Nassau to Jupiter in the State of Florida is owned and worked by the Government, and consists of a cable measuring 211 knots and a land line six miles in length.

90. The total cost of construction up to date has been £33,311, of which £30,000 was raised in 1892 by a loan bearing interest at 4 per cent., the annual charge for interest being £1,200.

91. Other annual charges comprise a contribution from General Revenue of £630 towards a Sinking Fund, and a contribution to the Repair Fund of £350.

92. Excluding the annual charge for interest and the other annual charges above mentioned, the total expenditure during the year was £477 13*s.* 6*d.* for ordinary working expenses, including salaries, and the total amount of receipts was £1,203 19*s.* 7*d.*

93. The number of messages received and sent were as follows:—

—	From United Kingdom.	From United States.	TOTAL.
Received	172	1,310	1,482
Sent	203	1,312	1,515

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

Constabulary.

94. There are no Regulars, Militia, or Volunteers, but the Constabulary is a semi-military force armed with rifle and bayonet, drilled regularly, and undergoing an annual course of musketry training. The force consists of a commandant, a sergeant-major, three sergeants, four corporals, six lance-corporals, two buglers, and fifty-six privates, all of whom are stationed in Nassau, except fourteen privates who are detailed for duty in the out-islands, and are relieved annually. The expenditure on this force amounted during the year to £5,933 13*s.* 1*d.*

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Casualties.

95. The United States transport "McPherson," from Santiago de Cuba for New York, having on board a detachment of infantry, with naval stores and camp equipment, ran ashore on the south side of Fortune Island on the morning of the 2nd August, but after discharging stores into lighters, and jettisoning a portion of her ballast, she was floated off with the assistance of a passing steamer on the 4th August, and proceeded on her voyage.

Labour Contracts on Steamships and in Foreign Ports.

96. The engagement of Bahamas labourers to work on board ship and in some foreign sea-ports continues to be of great importance as an outlet for that portion of the unskilled labour of the Colony for which there is no demand at home. That Bahamas labourers should be engaged as deck hands to work at discharging and loading cargo in the Gulf ports, and in those of Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba, is a little surprising, but it is explained by the facts that most vessels must pass within sight of Long Cay, Fortune Island, and of Matthew Town, Inagua, both of which places are lighthouse stations, and no deviation from their course is required, therefore, to enable them to enter at those ports and embark the people; and, secondly, that the labour supply in Haiti and Central America is most unsatisfactory, and that shipowners are consequently unwilling to rely upon it. By taking labourers from the Bahamas a considerable saving of time is effected, and the work is done at a moderate cost, and that the practice tends to economy in the long run is sufficiently proved by its annually increasing popularity with the steamship companies.

97. Labourers working on board ship are paid off on their return home, but those working on land usually receive half

of their wages monthly, the remainder being remitted to their agents at Inagua, and payable on the completion of the contract. The Resident Justice at Inagua states that the sums paid at Inagua by the several agents during the year amount to more than £20,000.

98. The subjoined returns by the Resident Justices of Inagua and Long Cay show the numbers of labourers taken away and brought back from and to each port respectively during each month in the year, and are followed by short statements concerning rates of wages, terms of agreements, and other matters of interest in connexion with this subject.

RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS DEPORTED UNDER LABOUR ENGAGEMENTS FROM THE PORT OF INAGUA, AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS BROUGHT BACK DURING THE YEAR.

Month.	No. of Steam Vessels entered Outward bound.	No. of Labourers engaged.		No. of Steam Vessels entered Homeward bound.	No. of Labourers brought back after expiry of engagement.	
		To work on board ship.	To work on Docks or Railways on mainland.		From working on board ship as labourers.	From Dock or Railway work on mainland.
January	8	280	19	5	191	8
February	4	88	—	6	196	3
March	8	228	96	6	148	46
April	9	261	—	6	197	55
May	9	246	114	10	269	103
June	9	298	120	10	265	9
July	12	301	206	9	256	90
August	11	325	62	10	264	130
September ...	7	225	38	11	331	29
October	10	275	—	9	303	80
November ...	7	269	—	7	200	—
December	9	232	79	8	302	—
Total... ...	103	3,028	734	97	2,922	553

Remarks.

Labourers on steam vessels are required to perform any work they may be called upon to do. Pay of foremen, $1 to $1.25 a day; ordinary labourers 50 c. a day, and on Sundays double pay. Ten hours constitute a day's work overtime 10 c. an hour. In addition to pay the men are supplied with food. Pay begins upon embarkation, and ceases on the day of their return to Inagua. Voyages last from eight to 35 days, according to destination of ship.

Three hundred men are employed by the Mexican Central Railway Company at Tampico, Mexico, principally on the docks. Ordinary labourers receive $16 a month, with free board and lodging, as well as the usual

amount for overtime and Sunday work; foremen receive about double the pay of ordinary labourers. These men receive half of their earnings in Mexico monthly, the remainder is remitted to the Inagua Agent, and becomes payable on the completion of the contract. About 400 men are engaged in Nicaragua cutting mahogany for George D. Emery, of Boston, U.S. Wages are about the same as the labourers in Mexico receive. The contracts are for one year.

The steamers upon which the men were deported were those of the Cameron Line, Munson Line, Atlas Line, Tweedie Trading Company, and of George D. Emery.

RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS DEPORTED UNDER LABOUR ENGAGEMENTS FROM THE PORT OF LONG CAY, AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS BROUGHT BACK DURING THE YEAR.

Month.	No. of Steam Vessels entered Outward bound.	No. of Labourers engaged.		No. of Steam Vessels entered Homeward bound.	No. of Labourers brought back after expiry of engagements.	
		To work on board Ship.	To work on Docks or Railways on mainland.		From working on board Ship.	From Dock or Railway work on mainland.
January	10	188	—	8	174	—
February	9	205	—	8	176	—
March	8	184	—	10	239	—
April	7	170	—	8	184	—
May	9	195	—	8	202	—
June	7	146	—	9	123	50
July	6	145	—	7	176	—
August	6	88	50	6	109	—
September ...	4	84	—	4	84	—
October	5	105	—	4	84	—
November ...	6	118	—	6	122	—
December ...	10	156	30	6	122	—
Total... ...	87	1,784	80	84	1,795	50

Remarks

The 80 men employed to work on the docks or railways were contracted for by the P.R.R.S.S. Co. of New York for labour at Colon or Panama as may be required of them ; the rate of pay is $15 per month.

The ordinary steamship labourers were engaged by the Atlas Steamship Company, Munson Steamship Line, United Fruit Company, and the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company ; the rates of pay were 3*s.* for foremen, 2*s.* 11*d.* for coopers, 2*s.* for labourers, with the customary overtime of 7½*d.* to foremen and 5*d.* to labourers per hour.

Public Works.

99. Advantage has been taken of the increased revenue to put in thorough repair some of the pavements, street drains, and harbour abutments in the City of Nassau, and £1,127 was spent during the year on these works; in addition to these, the public buildings received the attention which has long been due, and £984 was spent in repairing them. A dwelling house was erected at Hog Island for the use of the Assistant Keeper of the harbour lighthouse at a cost of £230, and two edifices of some size and cost are in course of construction, viz., a public market and an infirmary.

100. The needs of the out-islands in such works as piers, wharves, harbour lights, deepening of shallow harbours, and extension of roads are also receiving an amount of attention which was formerly denied them on account of the narrow margin of revenue left available for such works in ordinary years.

General Condition and Future Prospects.

101. The increasing revenue and increase in exports of the staple commodities indicate a fairly prosperous condition of the Colony as a whole, and there is no reason to apprehend any falling off in the near future; on the contrary, one staple at least, that of sisal fibre, has not reached anything like the development of which it is capable, and much is expected of it in the coming years.

102. The social condition of the people is, on the whole, improving, as more opportunities are offered to them to dispose of their labour to advantage, so that whilst they have little wealth accumulated as savings and no capital for investment except their labour, they are at the same time far removed from the desperate poverty which is characteristic of the social conditions in many of the Caribbee Islands.

103. So much happiness as an abundant food supply will procure really depends very largely upon the seasons, upon a good rainfall at the proper time, or the want of it, and seasonal changes cannot be alike in any one year in every part of the Colony, which comprises an area extending from north to south over six degrees of latitude.

104. Accordingly during last year there were distressing droughts in some places, as at Gregory Town, in the north end of Eleuthera Island, and at Long Island; in the former district occasioning the drying up of all sources of drinking water, a pregnant cause of public sickness; whilst other islands have not been so injuriously affected, in fact, so partial often is the distribution of rain-fall, that the islands, whose dimensions generally are length without breadth, will often suffer at one end from extreme drought, whilst at the other end there may be a good rainfall and fair crops. In some of the smaller islands the cultivation of the soil is hardly attempted, as at Biminis and Ragged Island, the people of the last mentioned district obtaining corn at the proper season from the islands of San Salvador, Exuma, and Long Island by a system of barter, in which they exchange the fine salt, dried fish, and woven grass mats which they produce for sacks of maize and Guinea corn. The people of this district have, however, recently planted the sweet potato, which is enthusiastically belauded by the Resident Justice of the district as "greatly befriending the poor," from which it may be inferred that the plant is a hardy annual, able to thrive in a poor soil with the smallest modicum of cultivation, and, if that should be the case, the people in the other islands should be encouraged to plant it, as it is a most agreeable esculent, and well fitted to take a place as one of the principal articles of diet in the daily life of the people.

105. Many small proprietors in New Providence, and some also in other islands, own a few orange trees, and have been accustomed to enjoy a sensible addition to their incomes in February and March each year by the sale of their fruit, but of this resource they have lately been deprived as the price has fallen so low that it scarcely pays to pick and cart fruit to the packers.

106. The United States import duties are blamed for the low prices, but as long as greedy and unscrupulous growers and packers are allowed to send their fruit to market so unripe as to be absolutely useless, so long they will be able to brand the Colonial produce in a way which will effectually keep down the price. A system of inspection at the ports of shipment seems to be the only remedy for this state of things, but the fruit trade of the Bahamas is scarcely big enough to warrant the outlay, unless the whole trade was taken up and worked in association by Colonial capital.

107. The death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria called forth the most sincere manifestations of sorrow throughout the Colony, and a movement is now on foot to provide a suitable memorial of her life and reign by raising the necessary funds by private subscriptions, which will be invited from all classes, so that even the poorest may share the privilege of joining in this act of posthumous loyalty and devotion.

J. S. CHURCHILL,

Colonial Secretary.

7th June, 1901.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 365.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1901-2

(WITH A REPORT ON THE SALT INDUSTRY OF INAGUA).

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 327.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1902.

[Cd. 788-35.] *Price* 2½*d.*

A27244a
'02

The following, among other, Reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
345	Grenada	1900
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	„
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda...	1901
355	Gambia	„
356	Falkland Islands	„
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
358	Malta	„
359	Gibraltar...	
360	Straits Settlements	„
361	Sierra Leone	„
362	British Honduras	„
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
364	Seychelles	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

No. 365.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 327.)

ACTING GOVERNOR CHURCHILL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Nassau,
12th August, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Bahamas Blue Book for the year 1901-2.

I have, &c.,
J. S. CHURCHILL,
Administrator.

12526—875—9/1902 Wt 28616 D & S—5

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR 1901-2.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

In consequence of the decision arrived at to adapt the compilation of the Blue Book Returns to the financial year as it is computed in the United Kingdom and now in most of the Colonies it has been necessary to add to the returns of the calendar year 1901 the statistics for the first quarter of the year 1902, so that the Blue Book returns now under review are for fifteen months, and no very effective comparison with those of the previous Blue Book (for 1900) is possible.

The following are the totals of revenue and expenditure for the above-mentioned period.

Total revenue for 1901 and first quarter of 1902, £97,791 8*s.* 1*d.*

Total expenditure for 1901 and first quarter of 1902, £105,352 17*s.*

The above figures show an apparent excess of expenditure of £7,561 8*s.* 11*d.*, but the statements of revenue and expenditure in the Blue Book do not include balances brought forward from the previous year nor advances and deposits which although not revenue and expenditure must be taken into calculation for the balancing of the account.

It will be seen on perusal of the following memorandum that a balance of £13,559 2*s.* had been carried over to account of general revenue on 31st December, 1900, which with deposits and repayments of advances bring up the total to £113,017 4*s.* 10*d.*, whilst the expenditure with the addition of advances and repayments of deposits is brought up to £107,052, and the balance carried over on 31st March, 1902, is £5,965 0*s.* 10*d.* to the credit of general revenue.

Revenue.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Balance on 31st December 1900	13,559	2	0	Expenditure from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.	105,352	17	0
Revenue from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.	97,791	8	1	Advances from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.	716	13	11
	111,350	10	1	Repayment of deposits	982	13	1
Deposits from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.	1,000	14	2		107,052	4	0
Repayment of advances	666	0	7	Balance on 31st March, 1902:—			
				Chest	5,020	2	1
				Out-islands	181	2	6
				Crown Agents	763	16	3
					5,965	0	10
	£113,017	4	10		£113,017	4	10

With regard to the following comparative statements of revenue and expenditure the amounts shown in the columns denoting increase of revenue and expenditure respectively are such as might be expected to accrue during the extra quarter of a year from 1st January to 31st March, 1901, but there are a few items with regard to which some special remarks are required.

In the Post Office department the increase in both revenue and expenditure is influenced by the fact that the additional quarter for which the returns are made up, being also the first quarter of the year, is the time when the Post Office business and receipts are always largely increased, and on the expenditure side particularly as the full subsidy to the southern steam service, £3,500, is paid in the March quarter.

The expenditure under this head also included an extra item of £198 14*s.* paid to the Bahamas S.S. Co., as a gratuity for conveyance of mails to and from New York for several years.

Under the head of "Charitable Institutions" an expenditure of £2,100 is included which was incurred by the building of a new infirmary. Such expenditure would usually come under the Head of Public Works but under the peculiar enactments of the Act constituting the New Providence Asylum the Commissioners are invested with full powers as to the buildings of the Institution and the expenses are therefore charged as ordinary expenditure on the Asylum.

An increase of £10,289 1*s.* 8*d.* in the expenditure on Public Works is greater than could be accounted for by three months' additional expenditure of the ordinary kind and it is therefore necessary to point out that a sum of £4,077 8*s.* 9*d.* was expended for the erection of a new public market in 1901 and the appropriations to various Boards for less important works were unusually large.

A decrease in the charges on account of public debt has been brought about by the action of the Government in 1900 when surplus funds, already invested, to the amount of £10,000 were converted into a sinking fund for the reduction of the loan of £48,126 under Act of Assembly 63 Vic., cap. 7—a contribution from general revenue of £900 being made annually and applied to the same purpose.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of REVENUE collected during the Year 1900 and the period of FIFTEEN MONTHS ending 31st March, 1902.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount Collected in the year 1900.	Amount Collected in the year 1901 and the 1st quarter of 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	67,992 9 11	81,838 6 7	13,845 16 8	—
Port, harbour, and light dues	867 3 2	1,098 15 10	231 12 8	—
Licences and internal revenue not otherwise classified	2,823 3 8	5,864 15 6	3,041 10 10	—
Fees of court or office, payments for specific purposes, &c.	2,632 14 8	4,466 16 0	1,834 1 4	—
Post office and telegraphs	2,301 14 3	3,703 14 0	1,401 19 9	—
Rents from Government property	135 0 0	255 0 0	120 0 0	—
Contributions to Widows and Orphans' Fund...	204 19 5	246 5 2	41 5 9	—
Miscellaneous receipts	—	—	—	—
Petty receipts and unforeseen items of revenue	57 4 1	95 14 6	38 10 5	—
Interest on investments under Surplus Monies Act, 1898	430 14 8	242 0 6	—	188 14 2
	78,651 4 4	97,791 8 1		
Investments realized	10,000 0 0	—		
Sale of Government lands	208 6 8	—		
Total	88,859 11 0	97,791 8 1		

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE during the Year 1900, and the PERIOD of FIFTEEN MONTHS ending 31st MARCH, 1902.

Head of Service.	Expenditure, 1900.	Expenditure for 1901 and the first quarter of 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt.	16,614 0 8	11,206 5 8	—	5,407 15 0
2. Pensions, Treasury ...	4,233 10 5	5,345 19 3	1,112 8 10	—
3. House of Assembly ...	676 11 9	987 14 3	311 2 6	—
4. Legislative Council ...	70 0 0	87 3 4	17 3 4	—
5. Governor and Staff ...	1,245 0 0	1,556 5 0	311 5 0	—
6. Colonial Secretary's Department.	1,109 15 3	1,429 9 4	319 14 1	—
7. Receiver General's Department.	3,474 3 8	3,869 18 11	395 15 3	—
8. Judicial Department ...	6,114 17 2	7,951 19 9	1,837 2 7	—
9. Registrar's Department	505 8 0	638 7 10	132 19 10	—
10. Constabulary and Police	5,933 13 1	6,960 13 7	1,027 0 6	—
11. Fire Department ...	259 8 7	1,401 0 9	1,141 12 2	—
12. Surveyor-General's Department.	336 10 0	491 15 0	155 5 0	—
13. Audit Department ...	350 0 0	491 3 3	141 3 3	—
14. Post Office Department	6,968 10 4	11,324 5 0	4,355 14 8	—
15. Telegraph and Telephone Department.	1,071 19 3	1,247 16 3	175 17 0	—
16. Ecclesiastical Department.	757 0 0	819 18 1	62 18 1	—
17. Education Department	6,000 0 0	7,222 10 0	1,222 10 0	—
18. Public Libraries ...	483 15 0	463 12 4	—	20 2 8
19. Port and Marine Department.	1,831 16 11	2,281 5 10	449 8 11	—
20. Medical Department ...	583 0 6	1,004 9 1	421 8 7	—
21. Charitable Institutions	5,806 10 11	9,606 15 7	3,800 4 8	—
22. Prisons	1,569 1 9	2,170 9 2	601 7 5	—
23. Public Works	12,111 10 1	22,400 11 9	10,289 1 8	—
24. Miscellaneous	4,301 17 3	4,354 19 1	53 1 10	—
	82,408 0 7	105,314 8 1	28,334 5 2	5,427 17 8
Surplus Monies Act, 1897.	115 2 3	38 0 0	—	77 2 3
Erection of New Barracks.	314 1 11	0 8 11	—	313 13 0
Total	82,837 4 9	105,352 17 0	28,334 5 2	5,818 12 11

The total revenue and expenditure for the four years 1897-1900 and the total for the fifteen months including the year 1901 and the first quarter of 1902 is given below:

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Remarks.
	£	£	
1897	62,754	63,405	
1898	74,382	64,148	
1899	76,697	68,748	
1900	78,651	82,837	
1901-2	97,791	105,352	Revenue and Expenditure for 15 months from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1902:—

Assets.	—	Liabilities.	—
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cash in chest	5,020 2 1	On current accounts	743 9 3
Balance in hands of Out-island Collectors and in transit.	181 2 6	Savings Bank (due to depositors including interest to 31st December, 1901).	17,153 13 7
Balance in hands of Crown Agents	763 16 3		
Investments on account of Surplus Funds ...	5,720 8 5		
Investments on account of Hotel Fund	8,177 6 10		
Cash on deposit	775 1 0		
Savings Bank (invested)	16,729 9 9		
Crown Agents...	5 18 10		
Income Tax	64 15 6		
Savings Bank balance cash	887 14 9		
Cable Repair Fund (invested)	7,574 10 0		
Total	45,900 5 11	Total	17,897 2 10

(D.) PUBLIC

The total public debt is now £111,626 0*s.* 2*d.*, and the follow-
separate loans which constitute the debt, and the provision made

Debt.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.
£ *s.* *d.* 27,500 0 0	Various persons	£4 10*s.* per cent.	In 1885.—The failure of the Nassau Public Bank to liquidate certain claims against the Government.
48,126 0 2	Various persons	£4 per cent.	In 1888.—For the purpose of reducing outstanding debentures which had from time to time been issued within these islands.
30,000 0 0	Various persons	£4 per cent.	January, 1892.—Telegraph communication between the Bahamas Islands and parts beyond the limits of the Colony.
6,000 0 0	—	£3 per cent.	1896.
£111,626 0 2			

DEBT.

ing tabular statement shows the particulars respecting the four in each case for payment.

Provision for payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and enactments by which it is made.	Amount of original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Principal and interest secured from General Revenue and Assets of the Colony. The interest on the total nominal amount of debentures issued under the Act and the Sinking Fund (10*s.* per centum on original debt) are paid half-yearly to the Crown Agents, and by them used in payment of the interest on outstanding debentures, expenses of advertisements, &c., and the remainder invested by them and applied towards reducing the debts either by purchase in the open market or by annual drawings. (48 & 49 Vic., cap. 24.)	35,000 0 0	7,500 0 0	Six debentures of £100 each are drawn for payment by the Crown Agents every year. The twelfth annual drawing took place in 1901.
By Act 51 Vic., cap. 9. Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury. Debentures redeemable 35 years after their respective dates.	48,126 0 2	—	—
A Sinking Fund was established by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 7, to which the first contribution was made by a payment of £10,000 from Surplus Funds, and it was enacted that a payment of £900 should be annually made from General Revenue until the Loan is paid off.			
£630 per annum paid out of Treasury to Crown Agents towards the Sinking Fund, interest payable quarterly from the Treasury. (50 Vic., cap. 1.)	30,000 0 0	—	—
58 Vic., cap. 1. £872 per annum paid out of the Public Treasury towards the Sinking Fund.	6,000 0 0	—	—
	£119,126 0 2		

(E.) Currency.

By the Act 2 Vic., cap. 4, passed in the year 1838, British sterling money was made the current money of the Colony, and all ordinary retail business is transacted with British silver and copper coinage, which are legal tender without any limit.

The Bank of Nassau has a note issue of £6,500, and its notes are in circulation throughout the islands, but especially in Nassau.

American silver coins are current at the relative value of half a dollar for two shillings, and a quarter-dollar for one shilling.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

In order to bring the trade returns into line with the financial year ending on 31st March the present returns include, necessarily, the imports and exports for fifteen months, viz., the whole of the year 1901 and the first quarter of 1902.

The total imports for this period are valued at £408,648, a portion of which to the value of £3,125 consisted of specie and bullion.

Imports to the value of £70,438 were admitted free of duty consisting principally of articles on the list of exemptions, viz., specie as above mentioned, and

Coal for use of shipping to the value of £7,666.
Machinery for sisal estates to the value of £16,514.
Fertilizers for agricultural uses to the value of £6,616.
Ship-building stores to the value of £1,646.
Fresh provisions to the value of £9,084.
Ice to the value of £3,032.

The sum total also includes dutiable articles admitted free for the use of the hotels and Government Institutions such as textile fabrics, earthenware and hardware to the value of £10,900 and other minor imports.

The following table gives a list of the chief articles imported, comparing the figures with those of the preceding year, 1900:—

Articles.	For the year 1901, and 1st quarter of 1902.	For the year 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and porter	3,012	2,436	576	—
Spirits	9,397	7,126	2,271	—
Wines	1,895	1,435	460	—
Cotton, linen, and silk goods	62,870	56,528	6,342	—
Earthenware, glass, &c. ...	57,015	47,102	9,913	—
Tinware, hardware, &c. ..	13,915	16,357	—	2,442
Preserved meats, &c. ...	24,206	18,630	5,576	—
Flour	42,772	28,264	14,508	—
Salted meats, &c.	19,769	14,312	5,457	—
Butter and cheese	9,542	7,871	1,671	—
Corn meal and hominy ...	11,718	8,414	3,304	—
Rice	11,383	6,911	4,472	—
Sugar	14,197	11,425	2,767	—
Machinery	16,514	8,912	7,602	—
Lumber and shingles ...	3,886	12,689	—	8,803
Soap	1,841	1,667	174	—
Hay and oats	4,463	2,546	1,917	—
Cigars and tobacco	8,017	5,913	2,104	—
Kerosene oil	3,681	3,358	323	—

There is nothing which calls for special attention in the above list.

The figures in the column showing increase in the imports of the articles named in the first column are only such as may be accounted for by the extra period of one quarter of a year for which the returns are made up except in the case of flour the figures for which, if prices had been maintained at the same level, would argue a largely-increased rate of consumption.

In fact, however, the number of barrels imported in 1900 was 41,233, and during the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1902, the number of barrels imported was 52,637, an increase in quantity of about 25 per cent., as might be expected.

That the increase on comparison of values should exceed that rate is due to the increase in price of flour in the United States which must have gone up nearly half a dollar per barrel.

The decrease in imports of lumber and hardware is attributable to the cessation of the demand caused by the temporary expenditure of the Florida East Coast Company and of building societies in Nassau.

Exports.

The total exports for the year 1901 and the first quarter of 1902 are valued at £222,178, of which £214,536 is accounted for as Colonial produce consisting principally of sponge and fruit, and £7,642 as British and foreign manufactured articles such as yellow metal, tobacco, dry goods, hardware, machinery, &c.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the chief articles exported during the period above-mentioned and also for the year 1900:—

—	Exports in 1901 and first quarter of 1902.		Exports in 1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Sponge	1,517,597	137,297	1,165,406	104,219
	doz.		doz.	
Pineapples... ...	380,094	28,892	602,751	59,191
	No.		No.	
Oranges	3,471,599	5,011	1,683,990	3,148
	cases		cases	
Canned fruits ...	41,055	8,797	41,913	8,836
	lbs.		lbs.	
Bahamas hemp ...	1,538,478	18,534	1,276,037	16,246
	bushels		bushels	
Salt	73,045	917	38,257	478
	lbs.		lbs.	
Turtle shell ...	9,313	6,906	6,904	4,391
	barrels		barrels	
Sea shells	2,826	2,357	850	1,166
	lbs.		lbs.	
Cascarilla bark ...	250,000	2,709	85,410	887
	tons		tons	
Hardwoods ...	1,136	1,518	1,198	1,212

The exports of fruit which formerly used to equal or surpass in value the exports of sponge, are now of much inferior importance, and a careful comparison of the figures for 1900 with those of the period now under review leads to the conclusion that the falling off in the total exports during that period, having regard to the additional quarter of a year included in the returns cannot have been much less than £21,359.

Return of total imports and exports for the four years 1897 to 1900, and for the fifteen months from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902:—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Value of Total Imports and Exports.
	£	£	£
1897	186,010	145,085	335,095
1898	238,336	174,860	413,196
1899	329,196	169,148	498,344
1900	335,269	172,317	507,586
1901–2	408,648	222,178	630,826

Some information as to the relative importance of the trade of the Bahamas with the United Kingdom and United States respectively may be obtained by reference to the following tabular statements.

Statement of the principal imports from the United Kingdom and United States respectively during the fifteen months including the year 1901 and first quarter of 1902:—

Imports.	For the Year 1901 and First Quarter of the Year 1902.			
	United Kingdom.		United States.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Cotton, woollen, linen and silk goods.	Unenumerated.	33,914	Unenumerated.	28,247
Earthenware, glassware, &c.	„	8,575	„	46,566
Tinware, hardware	„	3,181	„	10,677
Preserved fruits, &c.	„	4,650	„	18,866
Ale and porter ...	galls. 12,182	1,832	galls. 6,536	1,180
Whiskey	„ 4,062	1,800	„ 964	654
Wines	„ 1,769	639	„ 2 330	1,205
Linseed and other oils.	„ 5,585	839	„ 2,061	344
Rice	lbs. 2,233,633	10,358	lbs. 166,317	880
Sugar (refined) ...	„ 96,570	727	„ 520,268	4,127
„ (unrefined)	„ 1,244,479	7,680	„ 9,057	62
Iron nails	„ 5,585	839	„ 168,200	1,138
Copper and yellow metal.	„ 16,870	352	„ 13,902	458
Candles	„ 10,550	225	„ 530	17
Soap (common) ...	„ 7,857	82	„ 229,510	1,759
Machinery... ...	—	3,788	—	12,726

Statement of the principal exports to the United Kingdom and United States, respectively, during the fifteen months including the year 1901 and first quarter of 1902.

Exports.	For the year 1901, and first quarter of the year 1902.			
	United Kingdom.		United States.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Bahamas hemp ...	24,232	486	1,514,246	18,048
Cascarilla bark ...	33,879	408	216,121	2,301
Sponge	156,524	11,312	869,167	80,228
Turtle shell ...	7,444	5,495	1,869	1,411
	Barrels.		Barrels.	
Sea shells	427	546	2,048	1,561
	No.		No.	
Conch shells ...	9,300	72	102,809	349
	Cases.		Cases.	
Canned fruit ...	762	81	40,087	8,611

(B.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

Sponge Fishery.

This industry, the most important in the Bahamas, is for the present in a fairly flourishing condition though complaints of low prices are common and the places of the men belonging to the sponging fleet, who were drowned during the hurricane in 1899, are taken in a large measure by inexperienced youths.

The following is a list of the quantity and value of the sponge exported to the several countries named:—

Country.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£
United Kingdom ...	156,524	11,312
United States	869,167	80,228
Canada	1,318	119
Holland	211,774	19,103
France	137,438	17,651
Germany	112,587	7,569
Russia	14,557	1,019
Italy	14,332	296

Some excitement and alarm was caused by reports continually brought into Nassau of American vessels fishing for sponge in the waters of the Bahamas in considerable numbers and of

larger size and better equipped than the colonial vessels, landing on the uninhabited cays to dry and cure the sponge, and carrying it off for sale to Key West.

Although most of these practices are generally in contravention of the revenue laws, it was thought better as the Assembly was in session to give special protection to the sponge fishery by preserving the fishing rights for British vessels, and an Act was accordingly passed for the purpose.

It is doubtful, however, whether these depredations could have been effectually stopped at the time had it not been for the action of the Customs authorities of the State of Florida, who, in taking cognizance of the facts brought to their knowledge, and prosecuting the owners of these vessels on their arrival at Key West, under the United States revenue laws, were acting for the protection of the Florida and Cuban fisheries by stopping the importation of Bahamas sponge, duty free, to compete with the products of their own coasts.

In fact, the owners of the American schooners were committing a breach of the revenue laws of both countries, but it was only when they entered at American ports that they could be subjected to the penalties incurred.

It is difficult to obtain an absolutely correct account of the condition of the sponge industry, or indeed of any other, since answers to questions cannot in all cases be obtained, but through the assiduous enquiries carried out by Mr. N. B. Burnside, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office, sufficient information has been gained to enable the following statistics to be given as approximately full and correct up to the end of the year 1900.

Number of Vessels Engaged.

265 schooners of from 5 to 43 tons burthen, and 322 sloops from 1 to 16 tons burthen with an aggregate tonnage of 5,952 tons.

Number of Boats Engaged.

2,517 open boats were attached to the above-mentioned vessels and 291 open boats were engaged in the industry along the shores of many of the islands.

Number of Persons Engaged.

In the sea-going vessels, 5,517 men and boys.
In the long-shore boats, 445 men and boys.
In clipping, sorting and packing for export, 258 men and women.

Salt.

At Ragged Island the Resident Justice reports the production of salt to be on the increase, 25,428 bushels having been shipped

to Jamaica and 10,497 bushels disposed of in the out-islands at better prices than were formerly obtained.

Concerning the salt industry of Inagua the Resident Justice, Mr. Armbrister, furnished a special report, which has been already transmitted to the Secretary of State by Governor Sir Gilbert Carter.*

(C.) Agricultural Industries.

Pine-apples.

The most important of the industries in which agriculture plays a part continues to be the raising of pine-apples for export in the natural state, and also for the canning factories, where after undergoing various processes the fruit is converted into the tinned article, for which there is a large sale in the United States as shown by the export returns. There is nothing special to remark of the crop or exports of 1901. Nothing is going on during the first quarter of any year so that the export return as regards pine-apples is not affected by the inclusion in the return of the first quarter of 1902.

There are no extensive cultivations of this fruit except in the island of Eleuthera, where 2,030 acres are taken up with it.

In Long Island also there are 250 acres, and in San Salvador 104 acres on which pines are grown.

Oranges.

The trade in fruit other than pine-apples is limited to the orange and the pomelo or, as it is locally called, the grape fruit. Bananas, cocoa-nuts, pumpkins, tomatoes, mangoes and sappodillas are all represented in the export list, but in such small quantities that the value is next to nothing. It serves to show, however, that the possibilities of a fruit trade exist if the business of buying, packing, and exporting was in the hands of a competent firm contented with reasonable profits.

Under the conditions prevailing at Nassau the prices offered by the exporters are so low that it does not pay the people even who live close round to gather and carry the fruit to the packing warehouse, and oranges are allowed to fall and rot on the ground by thousands.

Of late years the pomelo or grape fruit has risen so highly in the estimation of Americans that a good price for that fruit may always be reckoned upon, and in quantities ten times as great as this Colony is at present capable of supplying.

I have been told by Mr. Henry Mostyn, formerly Private Secretary to Governor Sir W. Haynes Smith, who has himself established and brought to great perfection a fruit farm in New Providence about eight miles from Nassau in a westerly direction, that he intends to increase by every means possible the production of the pomelo or grape fruit, even by grafting it on

* Printed as an Appendix to this Report.

to the orange trees, having every confidence that the demand will be maintained for many years to come as there is no fruit of the citrus species at all likely to displace it in the public favour.

Complaints of the United States tariff are universal, as if it was killing the fruit trade, but a little statistical research shows plainly enough that it never has been anything but relatively insignificant by comparison with the importance which it evidently might and should have attained, and that at the present day it is just about the same as and no more than it was when the exports went to the United Kingdom, where, of course, they entered free of duty.

Take, for instance, the average annual shipments of oranges, pomeloes and shaddocks (for which information as well as for the list which follows I am indebted to Mr. Mostyn) and it will be seen that the average price and the average value of the annual exports are nearly identical for the period comprising the years from 1860 to 1877, when the trade was with the United Kingdom, and for the period from 1878 to 1901 when it began, and thereafter continued to be with the United States, thus:—

Years.	Average annual shipment.	Average price per 1,000.	Average value of annual shipment.
	No.	£ *s.* *d.*	£
1860 to 1877 ...	2,219,000	1 13 1	3,680
1878 to 1901 ...	2,726,313	1 13 6	3,693

That the United States tariff of one cent per lb. is a great hindrance to the trade must, of course, be admitted, and the uncertainty as to whether the duty may not be raised to an amount altogether prohibitive must tend to discourage the investment of capital in fruit growing.

The following statement will, no doubt, be of interest to persons engaged in the fruit trade. It includes the statistics of the export of pomeloes and oranges for the last twenty-four years commencing with 1878, showing the numbers of each kind of fruit exported, the price per thousand at New York, and the estimated value of the total annual shipments in each year.

There are some exceptional years as 1883, when the crop entirely failed owing to the severe drought of the year 1882.

In the years 1888 and 1889 the price for pomeloes dropped as low as 12*s.* 9*d.* and 4*s.* 1*d.* per thousand.

On the other hand—ten years afterwards, in 1898, the price rose to £9 4*s.* 6*d.* per thousand, the highest yet known, and not likely ever to be realized again.

Between these two extremes there is an ample margin for steady and remunerative prices from which growers and all concerned in the trade could realize fair profits.

Year.	Pomelo or Grape fruit.	Price per M.			Oranges.	Price per M.			Total export value.
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£
1878 ...	121,053	1	8	0	3,317,683	1	5	0	4,937
1879 ...	338,550	2	9	6	5,146,248	1	7	6	7,406
1880 ...	147,894	1	4	0	3,866,215	1	3	0	4,598
1881 ...	150,365	1	4	0	4,103,590	1	4	6	5,147
1882 ...	93,395	1	0	0	2,550,538	1	8	0	3,598
1883 ...	10,800	1	0	0	451,900	1	7	2	626
1884 ...	104,049		19	7	1,838,080	1	2	0	2,116
1885 ...	58,590	1	5	0	1,882,695		19	0	1,810
1886 ...	102,456	1	9	5	3,198,196	1	5	0	4,171
1887 ...	164,080	1	4	0	3,779,565	1	1	3	4,110
1888 ...	220,100		12	9	2,046,650		19	0	2,104
1889 ...	354,110		4	1	2,314,370	1	6	0	3,113
1890 ...	241,620	1	9	0	3,242,886	1	4	6	4,316
1891 ...	178,994	1	15	0	2,125,097	1	1	0	2,567
1892 ...	161,015	1	13	2	3,082,870		19	0	3,292
1893 ...	67,400	1	9	0	1,097,100		18	6	1,183
1894 ...	101,100	1	18	0	675,619		17	6	773
1895 ...	226,169	3	0	0	4,492,981	1	1	0	5,595
1896 ...	291,380	4	5	3	1,828,522	1	10	6	4,025
1897 ...	622,981	5	6	0	2,544,399	1	6	6	7,706
1898 ...	215,239	9	4	6	2,258,478	1	7	6	5,049
1899 ...	87,799	4	15	9	482,628	2	14	6	1,600
1900 ...	300,905	2	9	6	1,264,057	1	12	2	2,777
1901 ...	470,426	4	10	3	3,001,173		19	2	5,011
Per A. ...	201,686	£2	4	7	2,524,627	£1	4	6	£3,693

(D.) Land Grants.

333¾ acres of Crown lands were disposed of by purchase—12½ acres at New Providence, 91 acres at Andros Island and 230¼ acres at Eleuthera.

The total number of acres comprised in Crown grants throughout the Colony is 350,085, and the total number of acres remaining ungranted 1,768,253.

(E.) Shipping.

As the shipping return in this Blue Book includes the first quarter of 1902 as well as the whole year 1901, no exact comparison can be made with the returns of previous years which have always hitherto dealt with the figures of the preceding calendar year only, but it will appear from the following tables that as regards sailing vessels the increase in British and American vessels and tonnage, is proportionate, or nearly so, to the longer period dealt with in the return, whilst as regards steamers, there is a falling off in numbers of vessels and in tonnage of British and Norwegian nationality, and more than a proportionate in-

crease for the fifteen months dealt with in American and German steamers.

This may mean that fewer British and Norwegian vessels are now taking this ocean route on their way to the Gulf, or that they are giving up the practice of taking labourers on board at Long Cay or Inagua, the only object for which they would come to an entry at Long Cay or Inagua, and as regards American vessels the subsidized mail vessels from Florida and New York account for about seventy entries and clearances yearly.

Return of the numbers and tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared, distinguishing nationalities, for the year 1900, and the year and a quarter from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902:—

Nationality.	1900.				1901–2.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	144	10,439	145	10,512	222	13,525	218	13,266
American ...	79	10,587	77	10,534	94	19,193	96	18,284
Spanish ...	1	25	5	102	—	—	—	—
Haytian ...	22	240	20	228	30	610	30	630
Cuban ...	—	—	—	—	2	32	2	32
Dominican ...	—	—	—	—	1	30	1	30

Return of the numbers and tonnage of Steamers entered and cleared, distinguishing nationalities, for the year 1900 and the year and a quarter from the 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902:—

Nationality.	1900.				1901–2.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	118	246,148	118	246,145	86	185,732	87	186,333
American ...	101	141,677	100	140,759	139	207,318	138	205,686
German	19	23,142	20	24,343	30	55,208	31	56,908
Norwegian ...	135	120,983	134	120,139	112	110,372	110	108,433
Dutch	4	3,970	4	3,970	—	—	—	—
Cuban	—	—	—	—	41	56,029	41	56,029

Comparative Statement of total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years:—

Year.	Total Number of Vessels.		Total Tonnage.		Total Vessels and Tonnage.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1897	560	562	261,042	257,175	1,122	518,217
1898	595	597	371,878	369,644	1,192	741,522
1899	657	655	489,149	490,670	1,312	979,819
1900	623	619	557,211	556,653	1,242	1,113,866
1901–2	757	754	648,049	645,631	1,511	1,293,680

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Legislature met on the 19th February and was prorogued on the 14th May, and during this Session twenty-five Acts were passed, including the Annual Appropriation Act, and the following Acts which are selected for mention as being of general importance, viz.:—

Act 2, Edward 7, cap. 2. "The Tonnage Consolidation and Amendment Act, 1902," has for object to limit the payment of tonnage dues to one payment in every twelve calendar months, imposes a duty of one shilling for every ton of measurement on all vessels arriving at any port in the Bahamas from any port or place without the limits of the Colony, such duty not to be imposed more than once in every twelve calendar months.

Act 2, Edward 7, cap. 14. "The Stamp Amendment Act, 1902," has for object the exemption from stamp duties of bills of exchange and bills of lading for goods shipped to foreign ports.

Act 2, Edward 7, cap. 22. "The Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1902," prohibits the use of any wireless telegraphy unless authorised by Government.

Act 2, Edward 7, cap. 5. "The Fishery Protection Act, 1902," prohibits the gathering of sponge or any other marine product or turtling or fishing by foreign vessels within the territorial limits of the Bahama Islands.

Act 2, Edward 7, cap. 24. "The Export Duty Act, 1902," imposes a duty of ten shillings per hundred on the export of pine-apple plants, *i.e.*, slips, suckers, or tops of pine-apples to be used for planting purposes, the object being to protect the pine-apple industry from foreign competition.

Act 2, Edward 7, cap. 16. "The Public Establishments Act further Amendment Act," provides for two additional district magistracies in the out-islands, the details of which will be found in Part X.

The three last above-mentioned Acts are reserved until notification is given that it is His Majesty's pleasure not to disallow the same.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The state of primary education in the Colony calls for no special remarks; there is certainly no retrogression nor, on the other hand, is there any marked improvement to be noticed within the past three years.

There has been, however, sustained endeavour on the part of the Board of Education to raise the standard of efficiency in the educational system of the Colony, the latest phase of which is to be seen in the introduction of ameliorations in the school life of both teachers and scholars by building new and sanitary school-houses and residences for school teachers. The Legislature granted £2,500, which is being steadily applied to these purposes, new school-houses being already completed in five out-island districts, and residences for teachers in three districts, whilst others are projected and will be shortly put in hand.

Administrative efficiency has been increased by relieving the Inspector of Schools of the duties of Secretary to the Board of Education, and thus enabling him to give almost the whole of his time to the inspection of schools in the out-islands—a laborious work, which, depending as it does largely upon the chances of wind and weather, demands a sacrifice of time and leisure which no other officials are called upon to make, and it is in consequence of the impression made upon the Government and the Legislature by the consideration of the circumstances under which this appointment is held that a personal allowance of £50 annually has been granted to the present holder of the office.

The Inspector of Schools states that the total number of days' work done in the schools last year was 8,707, giving an average of 202 days to each school. These figures are slightly below those of the best preceding years, but may be partly excused by the fact that in certain schools time was unavoidably lost, owing to change of teachers and also partly to the exceptionally heavy and long-continued rains in certain islands and districts, causing flooded roads and consequent closing of schools for many days at a time.

The average percentage of passes in the four test subjects was nearly 75, and was probably less by three or four than it

would have been except for an unusual amount of irregularity preceding many of the examinations owing to the climatic conditions above-mentioned, and to severe epidemics of measles in several localities.

The following comparative table exhibits the most important of the statistical information available for the past three years:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901
Number of schools wholly maintained out of the annual grant.	44	43	44
Number of schools which received grants in aid ...	11	11	12
Number of pupils who attended Board Schools during some portion of the year.	7,074	6,935	6,940
Number of pupils who attended the Assisted Schools during some portion of the year.	1,061	1,020	1,122
Number of names on the rolls (Board Schools) ...	5,772	5,776	5,848
Number of names on the rolls (Assisted Schools)...	952	919	992
Average attendance (Board Schools)	4,001·4	3,917	3,984
Average attendance (Assisted Schools)	575	569	614
Total number of schools	55	54	56
Number of scholars present during some portion of the year.	8,090	7,955	8,102
Average number of names on the rolls	6,724	6,695	6,840
Average attendance	4,577·4	4,486	4,598

The teaching staff during the year comprised—

43 principal teachers,
5 assistant ,,
7 pupil ,,
10 sewing ,,
84 monitors,

and with two students in training and thirteen persons employed in assisted schools, reached a total of one hundred and sixty-four persons.

The supply of teachers is now generally provided for by retaining in the schools the most eligible pupils as paid monitors and pupil teachers till they are aged from 18 to 21 years, and then sending them to the Boys Central School for one or two years to receive further instruction and training.

The following information is gathered from a report on Education made by the Superintendent of Schools:—

"In New Providence there are two schools for girls and one for boys. All others, both in New Providence and on the out-islands, are mixed schools, and in none of these, excepting one

infant school, is a female principal teacher employed, the conditions being too unfavourable.

"Evening schools have been opened at various times and places, have flourished for a while, and gradually died out from the falling off in the attendance.

"The attempts to teach agriculture in the schools have hitherto not been attended with much success, but it is now under consideration to introduce a handbook, specially prepared, to inculcate such methods as are in accordance with local conditions.

"Tailoring and shoe-making were formerly taught in some of the schools, but the former is sufficiently attractive to a certain class of youths without being taught in the schools, while the infrequent use of shoes by a large proportion of the people and the cheapness of American machine-made goods cause the demand for shoe-makers to be very limited.

"Kindergarten exercises have been introduced experimentally in one school, and some further developments of manual training will probably be attempted in the near future."

No separate provision is made by the Government for either secondary or technical education, and no other than the schools already treated of are in any way either assisted or superintended.

Although the condition of primary education in the Government schools has been stationary or nearly so in the past three years, if a comparison is made with the conditions of twenty years ago the improvement is very remarkable, for since the year 1882 the number of schools has increased 87 per cent., the names on the registers 130 per cent., the average attendance 170 per cent., and the percentage of the population then attending Board Schools was 6·8, whereas it is now 12·7.

Besides the provision made by the Government for elementary education, the Church of England possesses five schools in New Providence, with a total of 516 names on the rolls, which are supported partly by the parish vestries and partly by funds supplied by "Brays Associates" and the "Christian Faith Society."

It also has 23 schools on the out-islands with a total of 1,114 names on the rolls and 663 in average attendance making a total for their elementary school, of 1,630 names on the rolls and 932 in average attendance.

The provision for higher education is in the hands of the several religious denominations; the Church of England possessing in New Providence a Diocesan Grammar School, with 18 pupils, and two separate girls' schools with 8 and 25 pupils, respectively, all supported by fees; and there is also Queen's

College, under the management of the Wesleyan Society, with 22 pupils; and there is also a High School for girls in connection with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, with 31 pupils.

The proportion of the population under tuition of some kind and to some extent at the present time is 18·2 per cent.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A). Hospitals.

The Blue Book Return includes the statistical information of fifteen months, from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, of which the following is a summary:—

—	Males.	Females.
Number remaining in hospital at beginning of year 1901.	72	60
Number admitted during 1901–2	287	205
Daily average in hospital 1901–2	66	64
Patients discharged cured	115	67
" " relieved	83	45
" " not improved	12	24
Number who died in the 15 months from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.	64	67
Number admitted with local injuries	36	
Number of surgical operations	16	

(B.) Asylums.

The lunatic asylum contains two separate buildings—for males and females, respectively. There were 32 patients on 31st March, 1902, classified as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.
Maniacal and dangerous...	9	7
Quiet chronic	3	5
Melancholy	2	—
Idiotic	4	2

The admissions during the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1902, were 17 in number, 7 males and 10 females; the daily

average number in the asylum during the same period was 29, 15 males and 14 females.

Two patients were discharged cured and 3 relieved, and the number of patients who died was 7, an inquest having been held in each case.

The daily average number of patients whom it was found possible to give employment to about the grounds of the institution or in household work was 19, 13 males and 6 females.

(C.) Poor-Houses and Poor Relief.

The infirmary or poor-house contains usually about 42 persons, most of whom are suffering from chronic infirmities and old age.

A new building, called the Alexandra Infirmary, has been completed and furnished, built entirely of cut stone, at a cost of £2,082, and was opened by the Governor on the 13th of May of this present year.

A plan of the building is attached to the Blue Book showing that there are five wards and a dining-room on the ground-floor, with a total floor space of 3,120 superficial feet, and a cubic space of 32,760 cubic feet, and a height from floor to ceiling of 10 feet 6 inches.

The upper floor to which access is gained by four staircases has the same disposition of space, a recreation room taking the place of the dining-room in the centre, and as there is no ceiling to the upper story, the height from floor to apex of roof is 18 feet 9 inches, giving larger cubic space, *i.e.*, 43,624 cubic feet instead of the 32,760 cubic feet of the ground-floor.

Out-door poor relief was granted to 73 persons in the island of New Providence, and 122 on the out-islands.

(E.) Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank is a Government institution, and is attached to the General Post Office and kept by the Postmaster and Chief clerk in the post office at Nassau.

The deposits are limited to £200 for any one person and £40 in any single year.

The rate of interest allowed on deposits is 2½ per cent., and the invested funds amount to £16,692 15*s*.

A comparison of the transactions of this bank for the last five years shows a slow but steady increase of business during the period.

Comparative statement of Post Office Savings Bank transactions for five years from 1897 to 1901.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited during the Year.	Withdrawals.	Interest added to Accounts.	Balance due December 31.	Assets.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897	1,051	4,157 3 11	4,041 6 9	199 2 5	9,523 5 4	9,588 6 5
1898	1,107	4,806 11 11	4,144 5 5	230 5 2	10,415 17 0	10,523 9 8
1899	1,240	7,205 1 0	4,822 12 10	270 11 1	13,068 16 3	13,277 0 10
1900	1,350	7,591 8 3	5,752 15 7	323 8 2	15,237 17 1	15,525 11 9
1901	1,421	7,664 15 11	6,846 4 2	378 10 1	16,434 18 11	16,842 4 6

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

The Police returns for the island of New Providence show that the number of persons arrested by the Police amounted to 346, of which about one-fourth were for crimes of violence.

Fighting.	Assaulting Police.	Common Assaults.	Burglary.
35	21	14	12

Larceny.	Bad Language.	Drunkenness.	Other offences against person or property.
27	95	76	15

The number of the persons reported by the Police amounted to 545, amongst which were 20 cases of fighting, 131 cases of bad language, and 135 for trespass of cattle and pigs in the streets, the remainder being chiefly breaches of Police laws and regulations.

Attention is called by the Chief of the Police to the great increase of juvenile crime in Nassau, but no suggestions are put forward as to the best means to be adopted for its suppression, whether by the establishment of a reformatory or by rendering parents increasingly liable for pecuniary penalties incurred by their children.

(B.) Prisons.

The total number of persons committed to prison during the fifteen months from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, was 228, of whom 148 were men, 67 women and 13 juveniles.

The number of persons committed for purposes of penal imprisonment was 199, of whom 118 were men, 63 women and 8 juveniles; the number committed under short sentences, *i.e.*, for three months or less was 138, of whom 75 were men, 57 women and 6 juveniles; the number of those committed who had been previously convicted was 104, of whom 60 persons had been convicted thrice or more times, and may be classed as habitual criminals.

The Inspector of Prisons reports that 115 punishments were inflicted on persons undergoing imprisonment, of which the greater part were sentences of solitary imprisonment, and only one was a case of corporal punishment which was inflicted on a juvenile with a tamarind rod.

The sanitary condition of the prison is reported to have been very good though there were four deaths during the period of fifteen months under review; inquests were held, and verdicts returned in each case of death from natural causes.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons brought before the Magistrates' Courts by arrest, warrant or summons was 3,021, an increase of 385 when compared with the numbers for 1900; but as the returns for this Blue Book include an extra quarter of a year the increase is not greater than what might naturally be expected under such circumstances.

The following table shows an abstract of the criminal statistics of the years 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901-2:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901–2 (fifteen months).
Apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	2,468	2,508	2,636	3,021
Number of summary convictions :				
For offences against the person ...	238	246	237	276
For prædial larceny	48	37	31	24
For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	78	80	76	99
For other offences	1,451	1,460	1,600	1,774

Criminal Statistics—cont.

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2 (fifteen months).
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :				
For offences against the person ...	13	10	7	8
For prædial larceny...	—	—	—	—
For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	20	15	12	12
For other offences	—	1	2	7
The number of persons acquitted :				
In the Inferior Courts	392	464	438	523
In the Superior Courts	16	21	8	6

The cases were disposed of as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence	258
Dismissed on the merits	523
Summarily convicted	2,173
Committed for trial	67

With regard to the summary convictions the punishments inflicted were—fines, 1,601; imprisonment in lieu of fines, 164; peremptory imprisonment, 136; whipping, 66; bound over with or without sureties, 206.

With regard to the classes of offences included in the above convictions there were,—

Assaults and offences against the person ...	282
Malicious injuries to property	17
Prædial larceny	19
Offences against property not included in the above	82

There were 1,773 cases not included in the above classification, comprising eleven cases of breach of Revenue laws, and others for minor offences such as breaches of education laws, street traffic, and other Police regulations.

In the Superior Courts there were 27 convictions; 8 for offences against the person, 12 for offences against property, and 7 for offences not included in the above category.

Six acquittals also took place.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The Census of the Bahamas Islands was taken on the 14th April, 1901, when the total population was ascertained to be 53,735, an increase of 6,170 since the last decennial Census was taken in 1891, which had given the Colony a population of 47,565.

The proportion of numbers to area of Colony is stated to be 12·20 to the square mile.

Other particulars as to age, sex, etc., are given below:—

—	Numbers.	Increase since census of 1891.	Per centum of population.
Sex—			
Males	25,000	2,445	46·52
Females	28,735	3,725	53·47
Age—			
Males and females under 18 years.	25,619	2,168	47·67
Above 18 years	26,914	4,093	50·08
Above 70 years	1,202	—	2·23
Marriage—			
Married	16,657	1,970	30·99
Occupation—			
Officials	292	—	·54
Professionals	129	41	·24
Traders and clerks	748	116	1·39
Mechanics	3,059	483	5·69
Planters and farmers	7,941	1,101	14·77
Seamen and fishermen... ...	4,271	1,737	7·94
Labourers and servants ...	6,743	889	12·54
Place of birth—			
Bahamas...	52,196	6,399	97·13
Other countries...	1,539	—	—
Vaccinated...	30,382	1,744	56·54
Education—			
Able to read and write ...	19,975	5,649	37·17

The following tabular statement shows the distribution of the population throughout the Bahamas Islands, and the increase or decrease of the population in the several islands since the last Census in 1891:—

Name of Island.	Area in square miles.	Population in 1891.	Population in 1901.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
Abaco and Cays ...	776	3,686	3,314	—	372	The decrease is mainly due to emigration to Florida.
Acklin's Island... ...	120	1,192	1,565	373	—	
Andros Island	1,600	4,589	6,347	1,758	—	
Berry Islands	14	215	382	167	—	
Biminis	8½	566	545	—	21	The decrease is due to emigration to Florida.
Cay Sal and Cay Lobos	7	30	18	—	12	These Cays are occupied only by the light-keepers and their families.
Crooked Island... ...	76	1,244	1,597	353	—	
Eleuthera	164	7,358	8,733	1,375	—	
Exuma and Cays ...	100	2,915	3,086	171	—	
Grand Bahama	430	1,269	1,780	511	—	
Harbour Island ...	1½	1,472	1,232	—	240	Some of the people have settled in other parts of the Colony and others have emigrated to Florida.
Inagua	560	998	1,453	455	—	
Long Cay	8	498	499	1	—	
Long Island	130	3,174	3,562	388	—	
Mayaguana	96	265	335	70	—	
New Providence ...	58	10,914	12,534	1,620	—	
Ragged Island and Cays	5	348	365	17	—	
Rum Cay	29	402	529	127	—	
San Salvador	160	5,244	4,658	—	586	The decrease is caused by the temporary employment of many of the labourers at Central America, Eleuthera and Little Abaco, Bahamas.
Spanish Wells	½	414	534	120	—	
Watling's Island ...	60	772	667	—	105	Several of the people have transferred their homes to New Providence and other parts of the Colony.
	4,403½	47,565	53,735	7,506	1,336	

(B.) Public Health.

The Medical Inspector reports that the public health has been good during the year throughout the island of New Providence; measles, whooping-cough, and chicken-pox prevailing in the early part of the year and influenza later on in a mild epidemic form.

The ordinary autumnal fevers were unusually limited in prevalence and of a mild type.

The relative mortality in the different seasons for New Providence exhibits only slight differences, the highest occurring in the June quarter.

(C) Sanitation.

The Medical Inspector reports that the sanitary condition of the island of New Providence was very satisfactory, and the water supply from springs and cisterns abundant.

Successful vaccinations to the number of 448 were performed in New Providence during the year, and 2,698 on the various out-islands of the Colony.

(D.) Climate.

The rainfall for the year was 61·83 inches, 10 inches more than last year and it was considered to be a very rainy season.

A meteorological return showing temperature, rainfall, and direction of winds is subjoined:—

—	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ...	130·0		77·0	59·7	17·3	68·4	0·49	81	N.E.	6	
February	129·8		77·0	61·4	15·6	69·2	1·00	83	N.E.	6	
March ...	136·7		79·4	63·7	15·7	71·1	0·30	80	S.E.	9	
April ...	137·6		79·7	67·6	12·1	72·7	1·40	77	N.E.	8	
May ...	136·6		83·4	71·5	11·9	77·5	9·26	92	S.	8	
June ...	133·2		85·7	76·2	9·5	81·0	14·04	82	S.E.	8	
July ...	141·9		87·3	79·4	7·9	83·4	8·15	75	E.	10	
August ...	148·4		87·9	78·6	9·3	83·1	7·54	71	S.E.	7	
September	148·6		88·1	78·0	10·1	83·1	8·32	82	S.E.	7	
October ...	148·9		83·8	75·3	8·5	79·6	10·06	77	E.	12	
November	124·6		77·2	70·1	7·1	73·7	0·30	67	N.E.	11	
December	111·1		75·1	67·2	7·9	71·2	0·97	76	E.	10	
Year ...	135·6		81·8	70·8	11·1	76·2	61·83	79	—	8½	

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Post Office.

The Revenue for the period of fifteen months from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, amounted to £4,128, and the Customs duties collected on parcels to £878 19*s.* 5*d.*

The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 535,129.

During the period, 2,066 parcels, valued at £2,987 3*s.* 5*d.* were received from the United Kingdom, and 2,807 parcels, valued £1,879, were received from the United States. 394 parcels, value £252 16*s.* 10*d.*, and 326 parcels, value £185 15*s.* 2*d.*, were despatched to the United Kingdom and the United States, respectively. The total number of parcels received and despatched by parcels mails was 5,593, value £5,305 9*s.* 5*d.*

The following tables show the number of letters received and despatched, money orders issued and drawn, and numbers and value of stamps, envelopes, and postcards sold at the Nassau Post Office:—

Statement of Letters Received and Despatched from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	Letters.	Post Cards.	News and Books.	Total.	Letters.	Post Cards.	News and Books.	Total.
United Kingdom	36,019	814	45,427	82,260	24,178	358	7,913	32,444
United States ...	127,473	2,399	80,842	210,714	97,678	2,859	8,773	109,310
Other Countries	237	—	7	244	14,160	416	4,874	19,450
Inter-insular ...	28,611	119	1,262	29,992	30,084	387	20,244	50,715
Total ...	192,340	3,332	127,538	323,210	166,095	4,020	41,804	211,919

Total number Received	323,210
" " Despatched	211,919
Total	535,129

Statement of Money Orders Issued and Drawn during the period from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

—	Issued.		Drawn.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ *s.* *d.*		£ *s.* *d.*
United Kingdom, including through orders.	1,073	1,437 17 3	184	400 13 7
United States	1,597	2,056 9 0	287	1,016 18 7
Total	2,670	3,494 6 3	471	1,417 12 2

Total number of Money Orders issued and drawn 3,141, amounting to £4,911 18*s.* 5*d.*

Commission on Money Orders, £120.

Statement of Stamps, Envelopes, and Post Cards sold at the General Post Office, Nassau, from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

								Amount.		
			s.	*d.*				£	*s.*	*d.*
145,212	stamps	at	0	1	...	...	...	605	1	0
105,530	„	„	0	2½	...	...	...	1,099	5	5
1,899	„	„	0	4	...	...	...	31	13	0
3,863	„	„	0	6	...	...	...	96	11	6
5,907	„	„	1	0	...	...	...	295	7	0
524	„	„	5	0	...	...	...	131	0	0
159	„	„	20	0	...	...	...	159	0	0
22	envelopes	„	0	1½	...	...	...	0	2	9
556	„	„	0	2	...	...	...	4	12	8
2 593	„	„	0	2½	...	...	...	27	0	2½
18	„	„	0	3	...	...	...	0	4	6
3,747	postcards	„	0	1	...	...	...	15	12	3
76	„	„	0	2	...	...	...	0	12	8
Total... 270,106						Total	...	2,466	2	11½

The Government cable from Nassau to Jupiter in Florida continues in good condition, and the numbers of messages sent and received during the period from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, was as follows:—

United Kingdom	563
Other points	4,221
Service	321
Total	5,105

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(D.) Constabulary.

There are no regulars, militia, or volunteers, but the constabulary was raised and equipped when the troops were withdrawn, as a semi-military force, armed and drilled as infantry. They were originally enlisted at Barbados and brought to the Bahamas, but few of these remain, and they are now recruited within the Colony.

The strength of the force consists of a commandant, a sergeant-major, and 72 non-commissioned officers and men.

The commandant reported that the conduct of the men had been on the whole satisfactory, but it was necessary to dismiss four men for misconduct.

It is also stated that there is a growing difficulty in obtaining recruits who satisfy both the physical and the educational tests as men who have such capacities can do better for themselves in other careers.

Attention is again drawn by the commandant to the differences in pay and pension between the barrack divisions and the city Police to the disadvantage of the former class, which probably has a bearing on the recruiting question.

The arms, clothing, and equipment were kept in good order and renewed when necessary.

The total expenditure on the Force amounted to £6,960 13*s.* 7*d.*

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The engagement of labourers to work by contract on board steam vessels or at harbour and other works on the mainland continued as in previous years.

The total number engaged at Bahamas ports was 4,983, and the number brought back 4,536.

This traffic takes place in about equal proportions at the ports of Long Cay and Inagua, both of which are lighthouse stations under the Board of Trade—Long Cay being the port first reached by ships making for the gulf.

Concerning contracts for work on the mainland, the Resident Justice of Long Cay reports that in May and June 100 men were engaged by the Panama Railroad Company for one year's service on the docks at Colon or Panama, as required, at the rate of $15 a month and overtime ten cents an hour, boarding, lodging, and medical attendance free; also, in June, 114 men were engaged by George D. Emery, of Boston, for general work at Nicaragua for one year, on similar terms. In July, the Papares Sugar Company of Santa Marta engaged 15 men for six months. 1,874 men were engaged to work as deck labourers on the several ships of the Hamburg-American line (formerly Atlas Steamship Company) and the Munson Steamship Company, running to Jamaica, Hayti, Central America, and Cuban ports at the usual rates of pay, viz., 2*s.* a day and 5*d.* an hour overtime.

Particulars furnished by the Resident Justice will be found given below:—

Return of the Numbers of Labourers Engaged at the Port of Long Cay during the Year 1901, *and of the Numbers Brought Back after Expiry of Engagement.*

Month.	Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of Labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of Labourers brought back after expiry of engagement.	
		To work on board ship.	To work on docks or railways on mainland.		From working on board ship.	From dock or railway work on mainland.
January	9	168	—	8	132	—
February	6	118	—	8	150	3
March	8	179	—	10	200	4
April	8	183	—	7	139	—
May	7	122	50	8	179	51
June	8	122	164	7	122	15
July	9	172	15	6	118	—
August	6	116	—	8	156	—
September ...	8	177	—	9	151	7
October	9	185	—	9	177	5
November... ...	7	138	—	9	159	11
December... ...	10	194	30	8	157	—
Total ...	95	1,874	229	97	1,840	96

The Resident Justice of Inagua reports that 300 men are employed by the Mexican Central Railway Company at Tampico principally on the docks, ordinary labourers receiving $16 a month with board and lodging free. The usual payments are allowed for overtime and Sunday work, and foremen receive double the pay of ordinary labourers. Labourers under this contract receive half of their earnings in Mexico monthly, the remainder is remitted to the Inagua agent for the support of their families.

The report also states that 400 men were employed in Nicaragua cutting mahogany for George D. Emery, of Boston, United States, wages being about the same as those paid in Mexico.

The contracts in both instances are signed for one year.

The cash sent home by the men and wages paid at Inagua amounted to £18,125.

The steamers on which the labourers were embarked were those belonging to the Cameron and Munson Lines, and ships chartered by George D. Emery and the Mexican Central Railway Company.

Particulars are given in the subjoined return.

Return of the Number of Labourers Engaged at the Port of Inagua during the Year 1901, *and of the Numbers of Labourers Brought Back after Expiry of Engagement.*

Month.	Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of Labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of Labourers brought back after expiry of engagement.	
		To work on board ship.	To work on docks or railways on mainland.		From working on board ship as labourers.	From dock or railway work on mainland.
January	5	174	19	8	245	80
February	4	128	—	3	97	—
March	6	194	58	5	144	—
April	6	170	29	4	108	—
May	5	114	93	8	223	133
June	5	180	240	5	184	60
July	9	278	171	6	165	—
August	6	165	—	8	289	37
September ...	6	218	—	5	169	30
October	7	249	—	7	242	8
November... ...	6	214	—	6	199	—
December... ...	6	191	—	5	182	5
Total ...	71	2,275	605	70	2,247	353

The Resident Justice reported in November that there had been a little excitement caused by the failure of the agent of the Cameron Line to pay a large number of men the wages earned by them for work on steamers during the preceding months, the amount due being stated at $1,500 or thereabouts.

The agent had asked the Resident Justice for Police protection which was granted in anticipation of trouble until the excitement wore off.

The men happily behaved very wisely and no disorderly conduct or breach of the peace took place, notwithstanding the hardships caused by such failure which could not fail to constitute a provocation to violence.

Another report from the Resident Justice states: "A considerable amount of trade depression has been experienced during the past few months caused by inability or neglect on the part of the local agent of the Cameron Steamship Line to pay the labourers employed on those ships. For some months the men have been paid principally in 'truck,' but of late they have not even received that.

"A new agent is to be appointed as the men have formed a union and notified the Company that they will have nothing to do with the old agent.

"Both the Cameron and Atlas Lines are subsidized; the former for $1,200 a year, payable by the agent, who has to make what he can out of the men."

A new and striking fact in connection with this labour contract business has thus been brought under notice, viz., that certain steamship companies instead of selecting a good agent and paying him a reasonable remuneration for his work allow their agencies to be bought by the highest bidder, thus making it inevitable that the labourers should be victimized under the baleful truck system, as an agent so appointed can only recoup himself for his outlay by keeping a store and charging exorbitant prices for inferior goods.

The Merchant Shipping Acts do not afford any protection, as the men are not seamen in any sense, but merely labourers, and many are not even British subjects, but Haytiens who have come over to Inagua from Haiti for the express purpose of getting employment.

The outlook for the present year is not promising. The climatic conditions are those of severe drought, which still prevails.

The pine-apple crop has already been disastrously short, and there is every indication of coming distress amongst the people in the out-islands owing to the complete failure of their crops of corn and peas.

J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,

Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX

Report on the Salt Industry of Inagua by the Resident Justice, Mr. P. W. D. Armbrister.

Some of the small proprietors of ponds have resumed salt manufacture with good results. The article raked is of the best quality, and no doubts whatever would be entertained in regard to the success of this industry, if it could only be carried on upon a sufficiently extensive scale. Inagua's fame as a salt producing island has not yet died out. The quality of its once staple production is still remembered by salt merchants in the United States and other places. To insure success to this industry, however, outside capital is most necessary. In order to compete successfully with other salt producing islands (Turks Islands for example) the tramways ought to be repaired, and rolling stock renewed. Salt pans require cleaning and windmill pumps and other appliances need repairs.

The handling of small quantities of salt affords but a small margin of profit under the present system of transportation. The value of salt at the ponds is one cent a bushel ; transportation and shipping charges amount to four cents ; other expenses bring the cost of salt up to six cents a bushel on board ship. The usual price offered by dealers for small quantities is seven cents, leaving a profit of one cent a bushel (sometimes less) to the pond proprietor.

Notwithstanding the fact that there is a demand for Inagua salt in the United States, *in large quantities*, very little can be done here in the matter. The salt pond is about a mile from the shipping place, and all of the salt is transported by means of a few small carts, drawn by diminutive horses, 12 bushels to the load. Arriving at the sea shore the salt is deposited on the ground. Here a number of men are employed placing the article in bags, which are tied up and put upon the heads of other labourers, who convey them to boats moored near the shore. When the boats are loaded they are rowed off to the vessel ; the bags are handed up on deck and their contents emptied into the hold. This state of affairs might easily be remedied by the expenditure of a sufficient amount of money for establishing more up to-date methods, thereby lessening the cost of transportation, and consequently increasing the profits of those engaged in the industry. It is not a matter for surprise that the present antiquated system of handling has proved a serious obstacle to the successful prosecution of the salt industry. The Turks Islands (better favoured by nature) have almost completely ousted Inagua from the business. Their ponds being near the shore, the proprietors were better able to cut down the price of salt and thereby attract buyers.

A wealthy company in the States quite recently wrote to a merchant of this Island offering to buy salt, provided that it could be obtained in quantities of from 1,000 to 3,000 tons at a time. I very much fear, however, that this opportunity for building up trade will be lost unless outside capital is forthcoming for cleaning and working the ponds, besides providing facilities for the transportation and shipment of the article.

I have lately seen a pamphlet published by the Trenton Iron Company of the United States. This Company manufactures tramways, &c., which are worked by the endless cable system. Many are in use in various parts of the world. The cost of the plant is very moderate, while at the same time an immense amount of work is obtained. I noticed that for the transportation of sand, lime, &c., it is claimed that the cost does not exceed six cents a ton per mile ; that is the cost at Trinidad of conveying pitch from the lake and placing the same on board ship. If salt can be transported at the same cost (and I see no reason to think the contrary), instead of costing, as it does at present, four cents a bushel for carriage, it could be conveyed from the pond to the ship for less than half a cent a bushel. If the price obtained amounted to only six cents, there would still remain a profit of about four

cents a bushel. The pond here is capable of producing, at least, two million bushels a year. There is a good market in the United States. The people here, from lack of capital, however, are unable to produce the article in sufficient quantities as required ; and even if they were, have no facilities for conveying it to the sea shore and placing the same on board ship At Turks Islands, the cost of producing salt and placing it on board ship is about four and a half cents a bushel ; yet the Colony thrives upon the business, besides paying an export duty or royalty of about £4,000 a year.

To any person willing to invest £3,000 or £4,000 in the salt business Inagua offers many inducements ; amongst which are the following, viz. :—

1st.—Constant communication with the United States ; with weekly mails.

2nd.—A demand in the United States for Inagua salt in large quantities.

3rd.—Inagua ponds are able to produce millions of bushels annually.

4th.—If properly handled the salt should not cost more than three cents a bushel on board ship, after paying all expenses, interest on capital included.

5th.—The price of Inagua salt is at present seven cents a bushel.

6th.—There is no export duty on salt such as exists at Turks Islands.

In previous reports I stated the causes that led to the decline of this once most important industry, the principal of which was the flood that took place about 25 years ago ; I also mentioned the fact of a dam having been constructed, which now makes a repetition of the damage that took place on that occasion quite impossible.

For several years past the quality of salt produced has been all that could be desired, while the yield of the pans worked is quite equal to that obtained during the best years of the business.

P. W. D. ARMBRISTER,

Resident Justice.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1902.

10

Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

334
10

No. 428.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1903-4.

(For Report for 1902–3 *see* [Cd. 1985] March, 1904.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1904.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1904.

[Cd. 2238-5.] *Price* 2½*d.*

M

JV33
.G7A4

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. FINANCIAL	4
II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES	9
III. LEGISLATION	18
IV. EDUCATION	19
V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	23
VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS	29
VII. VITAL STATISTICS	32
VIII. POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES	33
IX. MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE	36
X. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	37

No. 428.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1902–3, *see* [Cd. 1985] March, 1904.)

ACTING GOVERNOR CHURCHILL to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House, Nassau,
12th July, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Bahamas Blue Book for the year 1903-4, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

J. S. CHURCHILL,
Administrator.

---

875 Wt 22378 9/04 D & S 8 19000 A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR 1903-4.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total Revenue for the year was £71,377 3*s.* 4*d.*, the proportion derived from Customs duties amounting to £59,880 16*s.* 3*d.*, and the proportion from direct taxation and other sources to £11,496 7*s.* 4*d.*

The total Expenditure for the year was £74,038 17*s.* 3*d.*, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of £2,661 13*s.* 11*d.*

But a balance had been carried over from the previous year of £4,491 12*s.* 11*d.*, and the sale of stock invested as surplus funds realized £2,196 12*s.* 10*d.*, so that the total receipts for the year, inclusive of the amounts of £2 2*s.* 9*d.* and £125 12*s.* 1*d.* for repayment of advances and deposits respectively, reached the amount of £78,200 18*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance in hand at the commencement of the present financial year of £4,162 0*s.* 10*d.*

A comparison of the revenue with that of the preceding year shows an increase in the receipts from import duties of £459, and the amount of the receipts from House Tax, Liquor Licenses, and other sources of internal revenue not otherwise classified is maintained or slightly increased.

An apparent decrease in receipts from stamp duties and similarly an increase in receipts from Post Office revenue are merely items of account, the sales of postage stamps having formerly been credited under the head of receipts from stamp duties but now being classified as Post Office revenue.

The total receipts are less by £1,065 4*s.* 3*d.* than those for the previous year, the diminution being accounted for by the sale to collectors of a new issue of postage stamps in the year 1902-3, which brought in more than a thousand pounds.

A comparison of the ordinary expenditure of the year ending 31st March, 1904, with that of the preceding year shows a total decrease of £575.

Although during the past year there has been an increase of £2,361 in the expenses of the New Providence asylum, and a special expenditure of £500 on a survey of Nassau Harbour, these increases were more than balanced by a permanent decrease of £886 in charges on account of Public Debt (due to the paying off of a loan of £6,000) and of £152 in the charges on account of pensions, besides the non-recurrence of special expenditures in 1902-3, such as statue and portraits of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, £1,700, part of the cost of building the new ice house, £674, and other smaller charges.

Particulars are supplied in the subjoined tables comparing the revenue and expenditure for 1903-4 with that of the preceding financial year 1902-3, and for the purposes of a wider comparison a return of the total revenue and expenditure for each of the past five years is also given:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the Years ending 31st March, 1903 and 1904.

Source of Revenue.	Year ended 31st March, 1903.	Year ended 31st March, 1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	59,416 5 2	59,880 16 0	464 10 10	—
Port and harbour dues	681 19 7	469 1 3	—	212 18 4
Licenses and internal revenue not otherwise classified	4,279 15 9	4,394 5 5	114 9 8	—
Fees of court or office, payments for specific purposes, and re-imbursements in aid.	5,149 17 9	1,884 10 3	—	3,265 7 6
Post office and telegraphs	2,229 8 10	4,059 9 9	1,830 0 11	—
Rents from Government property	282 10 0	267 0 11	—	15 9 1
Contributions to Widows and Orphans' Fund...	171 2 0	153 7 8	—	17 14 4
Miscellaneous receipts	52 12 0	88 10 5	35 18 5	—
Interest on investments "Public Monies Act"	178 16 6	180 1 8	1 5 2	—
Total	72,442 7 7	71,377 3 4	2,446 5 0	3,511 9 3

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the PUBLIC EXPENDITURE for the Years ending 31st MARCH, 1903 and 1904.

Service.	Year ended 31st March, 1903.	Year ended 31st March, 1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt.	7,535 10 7	6,649 10 8	—	886 0 4
2. Pensions...	4,077 19 10	3,925 10 7	—	152 9 3
3. House of Assembly ...	807 6 2	988 10 4	181 4 2	—
4. Legislative Council ...	66 1 1	68 6 8	2 5 7	—
5. Governor and Staff ...	1,245 0 0	1,360 11 0	115 11 0	—
6. Colonial Secretary ..	1,120 0 0	1,123 6 8	3 6 8	—
7. Receiver-General's Department.	3,054 4 5	3,036 2 7	—	18 1 10
8. Judicial Department ...	6 414 9 7	6,643 11 5	229 1 10	—
9. Registrar's Department	546 9 0	521 5 6	—	25 3 6
10. Constabulary and Police	5,620 19 10	5,605 9 5	—	15 10 5
11. Fire Department ...	348 7 11	452 15 11	104 8 0	—
12. Surveyor-General's Department.	423 1 4	464 1 0	40 19 8	—
13. Audit Department ...	410 0 0	343 6 8	—	66 13 4
14. Post Office Department	7,685 2 0	7,630 2 6	—	54 19 6
15. Telegraph and Telephone Department.	1,210 7 4	939 16 2	—	270 11 2
16. Ecclesiastical Establishment.	274 16 7	230 0 0	—	44 16 7
17. Education Department	4,997 8 10	4,828 0 0	—	169 8 10
18. Public Libraries ...	415 0 0	455 0 0	40 0 0	—
19. Port and Marine Department.	1,684 3 10	2,149 5 7	465 1 9	—
20. Medical Department ...	877 17 8	794 8 9	—	83 8 11
21. Charitable Institutions	6,246 13 9	8,607 16 7	2,361 2 10	—
22. Prisons	1,630 18 6	1,712 0 6	81 2 0	—
23. Public Works Department.	12,722 5 0	12,048 4 6	—	674 0 6
24. Miscellaneous	5,199 9 7	3,461 14 8	—	1,737 14 11
Total	74,613 12 10	74,038 17 3	3,624 3 6	4,198 19 1

STATEMENT of TOTAL REVENUE and EXPENDITURE for the PAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.	Remarks.
	£	£	
1899	76,697	68,748	
1900	78,651	82,837	
1901–2	77,780	81,135	The figures given for 1901–2 comprehend a period of fifteen months from 1st January, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, caused by the introduction for the first time of the system of the financial year ending 31st March of each year.
1902–3	72,442	74,614	
1903-4	71,377	74,038	

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities on 31st March, 1904.—

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities	£	s.	d.
In Colonial Chest	3,082	5	2	Arrears due for the Service of the year remaining unpaid on 31st March, 1904—			
With Crown Agents on Current Account ...	1,079	15	8	Salaries 56 8 7			
Investments on account of Surplus Funds ...	2,700	0	0	Pensions 397 5 8			
Investments on account of Hotel Fund	8,177	6	10	Miscellaneous 1,080 19 0			
Cash on deposit of Hotel Fund	1,289	8	8		1,534	13	3
Sinking Funds and Investments for repayment of Loans.	30,581	8	8	Debts—			
Sinking Funds advances against unissued Scrip of Lagos and Sierra Leone Government Loans.	2,772	10	0	Loans	104,226	0	2
				Total Liabilities	105,760	13	5
Total Assets	49,682	15	0	Net Liabilities of the Colony	56,077	18	5

(D.) Public Debt.

In March, 1903, the loan of £6,060 raised in 1896 was paid off, the Sinking Fund for its redemption amounting to £6,010 4*s.* 7*d.* The balance of £10 4*s.* 7*d.* was carried to the credit of the Colony by the Crown Agents.

The following is a statement of the Public Debt showing provision for payment:—

Statement of Public Debt.

Loans.	Amount.	Rate of Interest.	Annual amount of Interest payable.	Provision for Payment.
	£		£	
Under Act 48 & 49 Victoria, cap. 24. Debentures.	26,100	£4 10*s.* per cent. on £35,000.	1,575	The interest on the total nominal amount of debentures issued under the Act and the Sinking Fund (10*s.* per centum on the original debt) are paid half-yearly to the Crown Agents and used by them in payment of interest on outstanding debentures, and the surplus is invested and applied to the reduction of the debt either by purchase in the open market or by annual drawings.
Under Act 51 Victoria, cap. 9. Debentures.	48,126	£4 per cent.	1,925	A Sinking Fund was established by Act 63 Vic., cap. 7, to which the first contribution was made by a payment of £10,000 from Surplus Funds, and it was enacted that a payment of £900 should be made annually from General Revenue until the loan is paid off.
Under Act 55 Victoria, cap. 1. Debentures.	30,000	£4 per cent.	1,200	An annual payment of £630 from General Revenue is made and applied by the Crown Agents to the formation of a Sinking Fund.

(E.) Currency.

British sterling money has been the current money of the Colony since 1838, the silver and copper coinage being in most general use, together with notes of the Bank of Nassau issued for values of one pound sterling and five shillings respectively.

The bank has recently been permitted to replace the issue of five shilling notes by one of four shillings.

To quote Sir Gilbert Carter's report of last year:—"Amerian silver dollars are current by proclamation at the relative value of half a dollar for two shillings and a quarter of a dollar for one shilling, but it has recently been found convenient to accept these coins at the bank at their face value in the United States and to put them into general circulation on these terms."

"A Nassau merchant, by some means, found it profitable to buy up all the British silver and ship it to America and Jamaica, thus placing the public to much inconvenience and imposing upon the bank the necessity of constantly importing fresh supplies. This has now been checked by the expedient mentioned."

I have only to add to the foregoing statement of the monetary conditions prevalent at Nassau the additional fact that a Bill has been introduced at the instance of the bank directors making American money legal tender at the rate of one pound and tenpence to the gold five dollar piece, but as the intrinsic value of the United States five dollar gold piece is not more than one pound and sixpence halfpenny, it is not certain that this fresh attempt to regulate the currency will be successful or that the legislative enactment for carrying it out will be allowed to become operative by the sanction of the Home Government for whose decision it is reserved.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

	£
Value of Total Imports	294,590
„ „ „ Exports	210,493

Deducting specie and bullion, which was imported from the United Kingdom and the United States to the value of £11,775, from the total value of imports there remains the sum of £282,815 representing the value of imports, which consist almost wholly of the necessaries of life in food and clothing,

the Colony producing nothing or scarcely anything in either class.

The following are the principal imports:—

	£
Foodstuffs	106,677
Alcoholic liquors	8,907
Sugar	9,216
Potatoes and onions	1,892
Textile fabrics	46,143
Pottery, glass, hardware.	52,034

The countries whence the imports were derived were as follows:—

From the United Kingdom, £63,515 (including specie £5,075).

From British Colonies, £6,374.

From the United States, £217,771 (including specie £6,700).

From Foreign Countries other than the United States, £6,930.

Details of the chief articles imported are given below, and a comparison made with the figures of the preceding year:—

COMPARATIVE TABLE showing VALUE of IMPORTS for the YEARS 1903 and 1902.

Imports.	Value of Imports 1903.	Value of Imports 1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors	8,907	9,962	—	1,055
Textile fabrics	46,143	44,524	1,619	—
Pottery, glassware, hardware	52,034	50,541	1,493	—
Preserved fruit, fish, meats, &c.	15,419	15,924	—	505
Flour	37,842	39,783	—	1,941
Meats, salted or cured ...	12,508	14,629	—	2,121
Corn, meal and hominy ...	10,414	12,578	—	1,164
Butter and cheese	7,829	7,893	—	64
Rice	11,095	10,695	400	—
Sugar	9,216	9,460	—	244
Lumber and shingles ...	9,316	14,652	—	5,336
Soap	2,315	1,849	466	—
Kerosene oil	4,037	3,508	529	—

The bulk of the imports are of United States produce and manufacture, but there are some classes of goods in which the

imports from the United Kingdom compete successfully in the Bahamas market or are of some comparative importance, as the following list shows:—

——	United Kingdom.	United States.
	£	£
Ale and porter	1,379	611
Whisky	1,423	121
Textile fabrics	21,543	24,040
Pottery, glass, &c	7,079	32,388
Hardware	2,921	8,940
Preserved fruit, fish, meats, &c....	4,912	10,427

The total exports of the year were valued at £210,493, and it will be seen on reference to the following list of the principal exports that more than half of the value is ascribed to the exports of sponge, which at the present day is by far the most valuable product of the Bahamas islands, the exports of fruit having fallen to a very low figure, and fibre remaining stationary:—

——	1903.	1902.
	£	£
Sponge	113,337	97,584
Sisal fibre...	38,805	37,574
Pineapples	24,471	36,957
Canned pineapples ...	7,582	9,447
Turtle shell	8,630	8,886
Citrus fruits	2,914	3,597

The following return of Imports and Exports for the past five years from 1899 to1903, inclusive, concludes the information to be given under this head:—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Value of Total Imports and Exports.
	£	£	£
1899	329,196	169,148	498,344
1900	335,269	172,317	507,586
1901-2*	408,648	222,178	630,826
1902	306,098	207,601	513,699
1903	294,590	210,493	505,083

* These figures are for a period of 15 months.

(B.) Fisheries, &c.

The marine industries include the gathering, curing, and baling for export of the various kinds of sponge, of which there are eight or nine varieties known to the trade, and also the catching of turtle, both of the edible species and of the species which affords the turtle, or tortoise, shell of commerce.

An interesting venture in hatching turtle eggs and breeding young turtle is now being carried on at Inagua, concerning which the Resident Justice reports as follows:—

"The turtle industry is in a flourishing condition. The mouth of the creek has been fenced across and nurseries made for young turtle. Large quantities of turtle eggs have been gathered and stored in barrels of sand for hatching.

"The hatching process takes six weeks. Several hundreds of young turtle have thus far been hatched and placed in nurseries where they are fed on conchs for a week or two until old enough to search for food on their own account."

Some alarm has been felt in regard to the condition of both these industries, and during the recent session of the Legislature an Act was passed constituting a "Sponge and Turtle Fisheries Board" consisting of seven members, whose duty it will be to investigate the present condition of the sponge beds and turtle fisheries and recommend to the Government such measures as may appear to be necessary and feasible for the prevention of the exhaustion of the sponge beds and for keeping up the stock of turtle.

(C.) Agricultural Industries.

The cultivation of pine-apples for export is becoming more precarious as an industry than it was formerly. A heavy duty in the United States operates to the disadvantage of the Bahamas exports, which have to compete with those of Cuba, which are admitted free and are of a larger and more marketable size.

The Bahamas pine-apple, however, is better suited in size and quality for canning, and factories are now doing a larger business than ever before.

The most important canning factory is that of the J. S. Johnson Co., in Nassau, which expects to pack and export 50,000 cases this year.

The canning of tomatoes has also been taken in hand at the factory of Mr. Bowles, at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, and has been very successful in the matter of quality, whilst as regards price, they are turned out at a rather cheaper rate than the canned tomatoes from New York, the price being nine shillings for a case of 24 tins, with reductions for larger quantities.

The Sisal fibre industry continues firmly established and unless prices should fall beyond expectation it will no doubt progress in public estimation as a field for investors with some small capital.

It is the least precarious of all agricultural industries, the plants being very hardy and able to withstand severe droughts and the fibre product capable of storage in bales for a length of time without suffering any deterioration.

The ease with which the fibre can be extracted and cleaned by hand and the fact that hand-cleaned fibre fetches a price not much below that of the fibre cleaned on estates by machine, has made it a most valuable resource for small land owners.

Bahamas oranges no longer find a profitable market in New York owing to the duty imposed by the United States tariff, which makes it impossible for the exporters to compete with the Florida and Cuban fruit.

The variety of citrus fruit called Pomelo or Grape-fruit still commands high prices in New York when the market is not over-stocked, but the export is under no regulation and the reckless purchase and packing by middle-men of unripe fruit and the absence of any system of grading tends to gain a bad reputation for the Bahamas fruit.

Lately, a feeling has been growing that the importance of agriculture in such a Colony as this requires that more attention and encouragement should be given to it, and an Act has been passed in the recent Session of the Legislature constituting an Agricultural Board with a small appropriation of funds at their disposal to enable them to employ a Curator and establish a Botanic Station, and endeavour to spread some knowledge of what crops can be grown most profitably in the various soils of these islands.

(D.) Land Grants.

In the island of New Providence 150 acres were purchased from the Crown in one lot at four dollars per acre.

In the island of Andros 271½ acres were disposed of to seven purchasers at 15*s.* 4*d.* per acre, and £1 15*s.* 5*d.* for town lots.

In the island of Eleuthera 4¼ acres were sold to fourteen persons at £2 10*s.* per lot.

In the island of Abaco 27½ acres were granted to two purchasers at 5*s.* per acre.

A further attempt has been made during the past year to stop the practice of squatting all over the large islands by reviving Sir Ambrose Shea's idea of granting "Poor Settlers' licenses," under which ten acres can be obtained at 5*s.* per acre, payment extending over five years by instalments of 1*s.* per acre yearly.

The object is to induce the people to convert their unlawful occupancy into freehold and so to give them an interest in better farming.

The total area of land disposed of by purchase during the year was 453½ acres.

The official statement from the Surveyor General's department gives the area of land disposed of and of land remaining in possession of the Crown, as follows:—

Total number of acres granted	350,652
" " " remaining ungranted	1,767,684

(E.) Shipping.

The following returns show the numbers and tonnage of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for the years 1902 and 1903 respectively, also the numbers of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the year 1903, distinguishing nationality, and the total shipping inward and outwards for the last five years.

With regard to the return marked A, it may be stated that the sailing vessels engaged in regular traffic with ports outside the Bahamas are of small size, rarely exceeding 100 tons burthen, and run to Jamaica, Key West, and Jacksonville, and to Baltimore during the fruit season.

Several times during the year schooners of three or four hundred tons bring cargoes of ice from the Northern ports to Nassau.

With regard to the return marked B, the steamers which are engaged in traffic between the Bahamas and other countries are represented by the mail steamers of the Ward Line between New York and Nassau fortnightly, and of the Florida East Coast Co. between Miami and Nassau for the first four months of every year, besides the British steamer "Antilia" running between New York and Nassau.

All others touch at the ports of entry of Long Cay and Inagua with the object of taking up and returning labourers under contract to work on board ship for a voyage or on railways, docks, or forest industries on the mainland.

Similarly the numbers of steamers represented as entering or clearing to or from the British West Indies do not indicate any regular steam communication or trade between the Bahamas and the British West Indies, but consisted of Cuban, German, Norwegian, and British steamers stopping at Inagua en route, probably for the purpose mentioned above.

A.

Comparative table showing the numbers and tonnage of sailing vessels, entered and cleared, for the years 1902 and 1903.

——	1902.				1903.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British West Indies	37	1,256	53	1,241	60	2,022	69	2,126
United States of America	174	19,068	162	19,405	142	16,349	137	14,212
South America	1	966	—	—	1	256	2	219
Hayti	49	839	31	601	31	622	23	270
Cuba	9	392	1	27	8	547	5	1,768
Mexico	—	—	1	361	—	—	3	610
Central America	—	—	1	168	—	—	—	—
San Domingo	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	—
Spanish Honduras	—	—	1	36	—	—	—	—

B.

Comparative table showing the numbers and tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared for the years 1902 and 1903.

—	1902.				1903.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom...	—	—	—	—	1	2,318	—	—
United States	172	273,448	168	246,607	174	319,806	150	256,902
British West Indies	39	51,569	12	26,902	11	15,881	29	73,295
South America	10	44,410	11	40,660	6	25,188	10	45,824
Hayti	23	26,301	55	94,228	30	41,944	52	77,975
Cuba	46	84,500	32	67,117	38	71,450	28	50,174
Mexico	2	3,152	4	6,807	4	5,783	14	20,717
Central America	2	12,406	2	12,406	2	3,325	2	3,325
Porto Rico	—	—	—	—	1	1,621	—	—
Danish West Indies	—	—	—	—	3	4,356	—	—
French West Indies	—	—	—	—	1	1,095	—	—
British Honduras	2	3,728	3	5,671	7	34,610	3	14,349
United States of Columbia	—	—	—	—	9	14,948	—	—

C.

Return showing numbers and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered and cleared, distinguishing nationalities, for the year 1903.

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	165	16,759	159	9,650	57	150,953	57	150,953
American	58	8,697	61	9,215	117	191,211	118	191,447
German	—	—	—	—	96	181,437	96	181,437
Norwegian	—	—	—	—	13	13,311	13	13.311
Cuban	—	—	—	—	4	5,413	4	5,413
Haytien	15	320	15	320	—	—	—	—
Dominican	4	20	4	20	—	—	—	—

D.

Comparative statement of total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years.

Year.	Total Number of Vessels.		Total Tonnage.		Total Vessels and Tonnage.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1899	657	655	489,149	490,670	1,312	979,819
1900	623	619	557,211	556,653	1,242	1,113,866
1901–2	757	754	648,049	645,631	1,511	1,293,680
1902	566	564	522,035	522,553	1,130	1,044,585
1903	529	527	562,121	661,766	1,056	1,223,887

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-two Acts were passed during the Session of 1903 of which the following have been selected for mention in this Report, and a brief summary of their object and scope given.

Act 3 Ed. VII., cap. 1.—An Act to revive an Act entitled "An Act for laying out and establishing a town on the island of Exuma."

Certain lands were acquired at the close of the eighteenth century to be disposed of in laying out a town with regular streets at the principal settlement of Exuma called Georgetown.

By the original Act a Board of Commissioners was appointed and invested with full powers to deal with the lands, but the object for which the Commissioners were appointed never having been accomplished, it was found necessary to revive the original Act and vest in the Surveyor General of the Colony the powers formerly held by the Commissioners, but subject to the control of the Governor-in-Council.

Act 3 Ed. VII., cap. 6.— An Act to regulate the proceedings in cases of dower and to facilitate the assignments thereof.

The old system of dower was in force in the Colony but the procedure for enforcing it was cumbrous and antiquated.

The Act above quoted, which was prepared by the Chief Justice and which is adapted from a similar Act recently passed in Bermuda, simplifies the procedure and in particular enables the Court to grant to the widow a money payment instead of allotting her a share of her husband's real property.

Act 3 Ed. VII., cap. 8.—An Act for the protection of persons contracting to serve as labourers in foreign countries and on ships trading with foreign countries.

The large business done by agents at the ports of Inagua and Long Cay in engaging labourers to work as stevedores on board steam vessels, and also on such works as railway and dock extension in Mexico, was under no regulation and it became advisable to substitute written contracts for the verbal agreements formerly thought sufficient, and to have each contract explained to the labourer and signed before the magistrates, who are, in consideration of the fulfilment of this duty, now legally entitled to charge a fee of one shilling for each labourer engaged.

Further legislation has been found necessary to insure prompt payment by the Agents of the monies due to the labourers on their return home, and a Bill with this object has been introduced during the present Session of the Legislature (1904).

A Bill to amend the Act of Assembly, 52 Vic., cap 1, was reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

The Bill enabled the Bank of Nassau to issue notes of the value of four shillings instead of five shillings, a change declared to be desirable in the interest of the bank and the public generally.

This Bill became law by proclamation on January 30th, 1904.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary.

The following is a summary of the statistical information supplied by the Board of Education for the year 1903.

Number of Board Schools in operation ...	45
Attendance of pupils during some part of the year	7,468
Average Roll	6,258
Average Attendance	4,523
Number of schools receiving supplies of materials and money grants	11
Attendance of pupils during some part of the year	1,098
Average Roll	987
Average Attendance	626

Four other schools were visited by the Inspector and received supplies of materials but no money grants, and were attended by 202 pupils with an average roll of 180 and average attendance of 153.

Adding the figures of the assisted schools to those of the regular Board Schools the totals are found to be as follows:—

Board Schools and Assisted Schools	60
Attendance of pupils during some part of the year	8,768
Average Roll	7,424
Average Attendance	5,303

The number of persons engaged in teaching in the schools was as follows:—

Teachers—Principal	43
Do. Assistant	5
Do. Pupil	4
Do. Serving	6
Monitors	104
Students in training for Teachers	3
Employed in Grant-in-Aid Schools	14
Total	179

The expenditure of the Board for educational purposes amounted to £5,044 13*s.* 4*d.*, from which total may be deducted the following averages:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For each school	84	1	6¾
For each child	0	11	6
For each name on the average roll ...	0	13	6¼
For each child in average attendance ...	0	19	0¼

The Inspector of Schools reports that the loss of three principal teachers and many transfers and new acting appointments caused an unusual number of schools to lose time, so that the total number of days' work done in all the schools was but 8,818, and the average for each 196 days, showing a decrease as compared with the previous year of 208 in the total number of days' work, and a decrease of 4½ days in the average for each school.

The average percentage of passes in the four test subjects was a little over 77.

From tabulated returns furnished by the Inspector it appears that the average age of the children attending school is just over ten years, that three out of every ten children are twelve years old or older, and that they attend school just over three and a half days per week, not counting the time lost by late arrival at school, which is very considerable.

The state of instruction is reported to be, on the whole, fairly satisfactory, and the development of manual skill and neatness among the children is increasing.

Besides the Board Schools and the schools which receive grants-in-aid from the Government there are 27 schools kept up at the expense of the funds of the Anglican Church.

These schools have a total roll of 1,576 pupils and are mixed schools for boys and girls.

The school kept in St. Agnes parish and the school in connexion with the Woodcock endowment have a considerable number of pupils, viz., 123 and 273 respectively.

There are smaller schools in St. Mary's parish and St. Matthew's parish, but the remaining 23 schools are all in the out-islands, and are mostly established to meet the want of elementary education in small settlements where the Government cannot afford to keep up the more expensive Board Schools, and they are never to be found in competition with the Board Schools.

According to the figures kindly supplied by the managers, the total numbers of the boys and girls attending the 27 schools are exactly 788 of each sex, but, as I have pointed out in former reports, all denominational schools which receive no aid from the Government are expressly exempted by law from Government inspection, and, therefore, considering the fact that registers such as are kept in Government schools are, with a possible exception in one or two cases, unknown in the private and denominational schools generally, it is evident that such returns as can be obtained for the Blue Book must not be taken as having any claim to accuracy, but as approximate merely.

The Roman Catholic Church also keeps two schools in Nassau and one on the island of Andros, where elementary education is given, with a total roll of 506 pupils, of which 196 are boys and 310 girls.

There are also twelve private schools in the island of New Providence with a total roll of 250, of which 114 are boys and 136 are girls; and eight private schools in the out-islands with a total roll of 80 pupils, of which 32 are boys and 48 are girls; making a total roll for private schools of 330.

A summary of the foregoing statistical information shows that the total number of children receiving elementary education throughout the Colony amounted to 9,658, of whom 4,919 were boys and 4,739 girls.

(B.) Secondary.

The provision for higher education in the Colony is very meagre, as might be expected, in view of the facilities offered in Canada and the United States to those who can afford to pay for the superior advantages of education in those countries.

None of the High schools in the Bahamas are denominational, but they have usually had their origin with some one or other of the religious bodies and maintain in some slight degree the original connexion.

The most important of these schools is, probably, the Nassau Grammar School for boys only, with eighteen pupils at present, which after losing much of its popularity and declining in numbers is now reviving under the mastership of the Rev. Mr. Gill, an experienced teacher who has only within the last year arrived from England to take charge.

This school is kept in a large hall near the Cathedral, which is the property of the diocese.

The next in importance is a High School for girls only, with 25 pupils, kept by Miss Patterson, a school teacher of very high attainments from the United States.

This school is kept in St. Andrew's Hall, a handsome building belonging to the Presbyterian body and close to the St. Andrew's Church.

"Queen's College" has 15 pupils, 7 boys and 8 girls, in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The Roman Catholic Sisterhood in Nassau also keep a school on their premises for private tuition, called St. Francis Xavier's Academy, with a muster roll of 36 girls, but a majority of these are small children and only a very few are really old enough to be classed as young persons capable of assimilating instruction in the higher branches.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A). HOSPITALS.

The Surgeon Superintendent reports that there has been some difficulty in preparing accurate statistics for the past year, because in February the building used as a hospital for the acutely sick was given up for use as an infirmary, and the new building recently erected and opened on the 13th May, 1902, as the Alexandra Infirmary was concurrently converted to the uses of a general hospital and is now called the Alexandra Hospital.

The reason for the change lay in the facts that the number of hospital patients had largely increased and the new building contained more space, and is in other ways more suited for the care of the sick.

The hospital is now arranged as follows:—On the ground floor are five wards for male patients, containing 38 beds.

The room formerly used as the Infirmary dining-room has been converted into a ward kitchen, where the serving of meals is carried out and the daily stores and crockery kept, and the corresponding room on the floor above is used as the operation room.

The upper floor has also five wards reserved for female patients, the centre room being kept for children, with six beds, and the other wards containing 32 beds, making a total of 79 beds in all.

The nursing staff of the hospital has been increased by the engagement of three male and nine female probationers to be trained for hospital work, but the training is stated to be a most difficult task.

One obstacle to efficient training has been removed by providing quarters in the hospital for the nine female probationers. For the first nine months of the year they had to live in their own homes and come in daily for work, and were constantly leaving or falling ill, but during the last quarter of the year the training proceeded much more satisfactorily although the Institution unfortunately lost the services of Miss Scott, the trained nurse, who resigned, and of whose efficiency and devotion to work Dr. Parsons speaks in terms of the highest approbation.

The following statistical information is derived from the Blue Book.

Number of patients in hospital on 31st December, 1902, distinguishing sexes.

Males.	Females.	Total.
22	19	41

Admissions during the year 1903: —

Males.	Females.	Total.
335	230	565

Discharges and deaths during 1903:—

Males.				Females.			
Unchanged.	Relieved.	Recovered.	Died.	Unchanged.	Relieved.	Recovered.	Died.
9	98	160	50	14	75	111	29

Numbers left in hospital at close of year:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
40	20	60

The number of surgical operations in the year 1903 was 142, an increase of 91 over the number performed in 1902.

(B.) Asylums.

The Lunatic Asylum building recently erected on the summit of the hill, which forms the southern boundary of the institution and which is devoted entirely to the accommodation of male lunatics, was occupied at the beginning of 1903 by twenty male lunatics, and the building reserved for female lunatics in a lower part of the grounds by fourteen female lunatics, making a total of thirty-four lunatics in the Asylum on 1st January, 1903, and the admissions during the year were as follows:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
7	14	21

The following is a statement of the discharges and deaths during the year:—

Males.				Females.			
Unchanged.	Relieved.	Recovered.	Died.	Unchanged.	Relieved.	Recovered.	Died.
1	0	3	6	1	1	2	4

Deducting the number of patients discharged and dead there remained at the close of the year a balance of 37 lunatics under treatment.

(C.) Poor Houses.

The inmates of the Infirmary at the commencement of the year 1903 numbered 50, of whom 32 were males and 18 females.

The admissions during the year were:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
25	28	53

Discharges and deaths during the year are returned as follows:—

—	Recovered.	Died.
Males	31	7
Females	29	1

At the close of the year there were left in the infirmary 35 persons, of whom 19 were males and 16 females.

In connexion with the infirmary is a small lazaretto for the accommodation of a few lepers.

There has never been any attempt at segregation of lepers in the Colony by compulsory legislation, and any lepers who enter the asylum can take their departure when they wish to do so.

There were seven lepers, six male and one female, in the asylum on the 1st January, 1903, and five were admitted during the year, four male and one female.

Three were discharged relieved and one died of tubercular leprosy.

Of the eight deaths in the institution, six were the result of old age and paralysis and two of consumption.

The hospital, lunatic asylum, and infirmary are all separate departments of the institution called the New Providence Asylum, managed by a Board of Commissioners, and the following numbers show the admissions, discharges, and deaths for the institution as a whole:—

Remaining at end of 1902	132
Admitted during 1903	644
Discharged during 1903	538
Died during 1903	98
Remaining in the institution at the end of 1903	140

The deaths were distributed as follows:—

Lunatic Asylum	10
Paupers	8
Hospital	79
Lepers	1

The number of out-patients seen by the Assistant Surgeon, Dr. J. J. Culmer, for the year 1903 was 3,762, an increase of 312 as compared with the previous year, and the number of new patients visited at their homes was 725, and many of these cases required frequent visits.

The prescriptions dispensed during the year reached a total number of 17,945, an increase of 4,584 as compared with the number dispensed in the previous year, 1902.

(E.) Savings Bank.

The Government Savings Bank is kept by the Post Office department and the annual Balance Sheet is made up on 30th June in each year.

The following statistical returns are rendered for the twelve months ending 30th June, 1903:—

Statement of Deposits and Withdrawals.

—	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Deposits	3,205	8,157 2 5
Withdrawals	2,713	5,867 18 8

The number of depositors on 30th June was 1,610 including 232 unclaimed accounts.

Transactions with and balance due depositors on 30th June, 1903:—

Balance due depositors June 30th, 1902—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Current Accounts	16,594 14 6	
Unclaimed Accounts	12 17 7	
		16,607 12 1
Deposits during year		8,157 2 5
Interest		405 16 10
		25,170 11 4
Less withdrawals		5,867 18 8
Balance due on June 30th for current accounts (including £12 6s. 7d. unclaimed)		19,302 12 8

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
To Surplus on June 30th, 1902 ...	479	0	10
Interest on Investments	602	9	2
Sales of Pass Books	0	4	0
	1,081	14	0

Less.

	£	s.	d.
Interest credited to depositors ...	405	16	10
Premium exchange	22	0	0
	427	16	10
Surplus on June 30th, 1903	653	17	2

Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
				Cost of Investments.		
				18,635	1	5
Investments in Colonial Government Securities	18,960	0	7			
Income Tax				73	4	11
Crown Agents				700	0	0
Bank of Nassau ...				485	17	6
Cash				62	6	0
				19,956	9	10

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
Depositors current accounts (including £12 6*s.* 7*d.* unclaimed)	19,302	12	8
Post Office Savings Bank Surplus ...	653	17	2
	19,956	9	10

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

The total number of persons arrested and reported by the police in New Providence amounted to 1,090, of which number 523 persons were arrested and 567 reported.

Under the head of crimes of violence there were seven assaults of a serious character, one involving the charge of manslaughter and six of unlawful wounding.

There were 79 persons charged with common assaults, of which 38 were committed on the police and 41 ordinary assaults, in addition to which 65 persons were arrested and 23 reported for fighting in the streets.

Continuing with offences of similar character there were seventy-four persons arrested and twenty-three reported for drunkenness, and for using profane and indecent language two hundred and twelve persons.

Breaches of regulations under Street Traffic Acts are accountable for 112 reports, trespass of cattle in streets for 172, and breaches of other municipal regulations for the remainder, numbering about 243.

There were 103 cases of larceny, for which offence 99 persons were arrested and 4 reported.

The number of warrants put into the hands of the police was 235, and 224 out of that number were duly executed.

(B.) Prisons.

The report of the Inspector of Prisons gives the following information for the year 1903.

The total number of persons committed was 242, of whom 211 were committed for purposes of penal imprisonment.

In that class the terms of imprisonment ranged as follows:—

For five years or more	2
For one year and upwards but less than five years	7
For more than three months but less than one year	29
For three months or less	173

Of the total number committed, 134 were men, 84 women, and 24 juveniles.

Of the 211 persons committed for penal imprisonment, 115 were men, 75 women, and 21 juveniles.

Other statistical information for 1903 shows—

The daily average number in prison	65·71
The number of admissions to hospital	53
The daily average on the sick list	1·39
The number of deaths	6

Out of the number of 53 prisoners admitted to hospital 34 were men, 18 women, and 1 juvenile.

All six deaths were amongst the male prisoners; an inquest was held in each case and a verdict returned of death from natural causes.

Prisoners are associated for work and exercise in the day-time, but are confined in separate cells for the night, there being 100 cells in the prison, but no associated wards.

The cost of the prison for 1903, exclusive of the salaries of keeper and chaplain, was £1,576 16*s.* 7*d.*

In maintaining the discipline of the prison it was necessary to inflict punishments to the number of 181, viz.:—

Solitary confinement	70
Reversion of diet	36
Solitary confinement with crank	57
Forfeiture of industrial marks	13
Whipping (on juveniles only)	5

The Inspector of Prisons remarks that the discipline on the female side leaves much to be desired, the difficulty being to find any restraining influence on some of the very violent characters who are detained in the prison.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons brought before the Magistrates Courts by arrest, warrant or summons, for offences was 3,006, of which number 432 were charged with offences against the person, and 266 with offences against property, including 68 cases of prædial larceny.

The largest number, amounting to 2,308 out of a total number of 3,006, were charged with minor offences, such as abusive language and breaches of street traffic regulations, besides many quasi civil cases, such as trespass of cattle and neglect to send children to school.

In the Magistrates Courts the cases were disposed of as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution	324
Dismissed on the merits	481
Summary convictions	2,164
Committed for trial	37

In the Supreme Court 49 persons were tried on criminal charges, of whom 36 were convicted, 8 acquitted, and 5 dismissed for want of prosecution.

The trials in which convictions were obtained were:—

For offences against the person	15
For offences against property	19
For other offences	2

The following comparative table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years.

—	1900.	1901–2 (fifteen months).	1902.	1903.
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate.	2,636	3,021	2,827	3,006
The number of summary convictions:				
(1) For offences against the person	237	276	290	278
(2) For prædial larceny	31	24	35	50
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	76	99	101	119
(4) Other offences	1,600	1,774	1,756	1,717
Number of convictions in the Supreme Court:				
(1) For offences against the person	7	8	10	15
(2) For prædial larceny	—	—	1	—
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	12	12	16	19
(4) For other offences	2	1	6	2
Number of persons acquitted:				
(1) In the Inferior Courts ...	438	523	385	481
(2) In the Supreme Court ...	8	6	20	8

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The following is a return of the statistics of population for 1903:—

Number of inhabitants in 1902	55,190
Number of births in 1903	2,096
Number of deaths in 1903	1,173
Number of inhabitants in 1903	56,113
Increase in population	923

(B.) Public Health.

The Medical Inspector's report relates only to the island of New Providence including the town of Nassau, in which he is resident.

The health of the island was good throughout the entire year. An epidemic of parotitis (mumps) prevailed during the last six months of the year, and varicella (chicken-pox) also assumed an epidemic form more or less throughout the island.

Ordinary autumnal fevers were not so prevalent as usual and were mild in type.

A few cases of sporadic typhoid fever occurred and dysentery and diarrhœa also prevailed to some extent.

Vaccination was carried on as usual, a supply of glycerinated calf lymph being sent to all the Public Vaccinators on the out-islands twice during the year.

The number of successful vaccinations recorded in the island of New Providence for the year was 526, and in the out-islands 884.

(C.) Sanitation.

The general sanitary condition of the island of New Providence is reported to have been very satisfactory, the water supply from springs and cisterns abundant, and the drainage good.

Frequent inspections of the city and suburbs were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

(D.) Climate.

The following is the meteorological return for the year 1903, showing rainfall, temperature, and direction and force of wind. The rainfall was 51·45 inches, causing a more favourable season

as compared with the year 1902, when 37·76 inches only were recorded.

—	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ...	124·4	77·3	65·4	11·9	73·3	6·74	80	E.	11·0	Hurricane recorded on 10th September, 1903. Lowest correct reading of the barometer on that date 29·15 at 7·30 p.m.
February	134·9	78·7	68·1	10·6	75·4	1·72	77	E.	10·5	
March ...	136·9	78·2	68·2	11·0	76·5	1·94	70	E.	9·5	
April ...	126·0	78·6	67·1	11·5	75·5	0·72	65	N.E.	7·0	
May ...	134·9	80·4	69·6	10·8	77·6	2·72	70	E.	7·0	
June ...	140·8	85·7	73·4	12·3	81·0	12·03	78	S.E.	8·5	
July ...	125·2	87·3	75·5	11·8	84·7	2·90	67	E.	6·9	
August ...	133·5	89·3	76·9	12·4	85·1	3·80	72	S.E.	9·6	
September	127·2	86·6	72·4	14·2	82·1	13·91	76	E.	11·0	
October ...	128·2	83·4	72·5	10·9	79·3	2·07	71	E.	10·5	
November	121·4	79·6	70·0	9·6	76·1	2·16	71	E.	11·0	
December	108·1	75·3	67·1	8·2	72·3	0·74	71	N.E.	8·5	

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Post Office.

The transactions of this department up to the close of the financial year ending 31st March, 1904, are described by the Postmaster as follows:—

The revenue amounted to £3,252 15*s.*, showing a decrease as compared with the previous year of £1,050 4*s.*

The decrease of revenue was caused by a decrease in the sales of stamps to dealers and collectors, a new issue of stamps in the previous year having caused the sales to rise to £1,488 18*s.*

During the past year, the abnormal demand having ceased, the sales fell to £278 15*s.* 10*d.*, a difference of £1,210 3*s.*

As the net decrease in revenue is but £1,050 4*s.* there has been an actual increase in the revenue proper of £159 19*s.* for the year.

The receipts from sale of stamps and postcards for the year ending 31st March, 1904, amounted to £2,369 11*s* 11*d.*, of which sum £315 12*s.* 10*d.* was paid in from the out-islands.

The following tables show the number of letters received and desptached, and the number and value of money orders issued and drawn during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1904.

Statement of Letters Received and Despatched during the year ended 31st March, 1904.

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	Letters.	Post Cards.	News and Books.	Total.	Letters.	Post Cards.	News and Books.	Total.
United Kingdom	35,194	1,615	31,114	67,923	20,272	902	5,678	26,852
United States ...	87,893	2,653	49,294	139,845	76,661	7,983	7,267	91,911
Other Countries	59	78	14	146	14,391	1,358	579	16,328
Inter-insular ...	23,997	98	797	24,892	29,831	409	25,067	55,307
Total ...	147,143	4,444	81,219	232,806	141,155	10,652	38,591	190,398

Statement of Money Orders Issued and Drawn during the year ended 31st March, 1904.

—	Issued.		Drawn.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom, including through orders.	886	916 2 8	147	249 8 10
United States	1,035	1,194 15 10	197	685 5 0
Total...	1,921	2,110 18 6	344	934 13 10

	No.
Total number of Money Orders issued and drawn	2,265
	£ s. d.
Total value	3,074 5 4

The extent to which the Parcel Post is made use of by the people of Nassau and a few people in the out-islands may be gathered from the subjoined statement of the number and value of Parcel Post packets handled during the year.

—	Number.	Value.
		£ s. d.
Received from United Kingdom	1,868	2,468 16 2
„ „ United States	2,006	1,496 7 1
Despatched to United Kingdom	333	287 16 5
„ „ United States	204	90 3 8
Total	4,411	4,343 3 4

Customs duties collected on parcels £679 15*s.* 11*d.*

There has been an increase in the number of out-island Postal Stations and more frequent communication established with some of them.

The inter-insular service for the coming year will be carried on at a cost of £1,359 6*s*., the distribution of expenditure being as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Subsidies	1,204	10	0
Carriers	17	16	0
Postmasters' Salaries	137	0	0

Telegraph Service.

The Superintendent reports that the receipts for the year 1903 amounted to £1,364 0*s* 1*d*., of which £28 8*s*. 9*d*. is to be placed to account as for Government messages.

The expenditure amounted to £594 8*s*. 10*d*., viz., for salaries £542 10*s*., and incidental expenses £51 18*s*. 10*d*.

The number of telegraphic messages passing between Nassau and the United Kingdom, and between Nassau and other countries, respectively, are as follows:—

—	To.	From.
Number of telegrams passing between Nassau and the United Kingdom.	163	182
Number of telegrams passing between Nassau and other countries.	1,584	1,460

Including service messages to the number of 528, the total number of messages passing through the Nassau telegraph office was 3,917.

A fault developed in the cable in August which has decreased its working efficiency by about 25 per cent.

The fault is evidently of the nature of a slight crack in the gutter percha jacket surrounding the copper conductor, which admits moisture to the cable core with a consequent leakage of current to earth through the fault.

The Superintendent recently reported that he has located the fault, which he finds to be in the neighbourhood of eight and one-third knots of cable distance from the Nassau Cable Hut, and his localization has been confirmed by the electrician at Jupiter, Florida. Communication with Jupiter still holds good, and business is proceeded with regularly and without delay.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE

(D.) Constabulary.

The strength of the Force on the 1st January, 1904, was stated as 73 of all ranks, viz.:—

In barracks at Nassau, Commandant, 47 rank and file.
Out of barracks, 16 rank and file.
Quartered in out-islands, 10 rank and file.

Seven men were discharged and eight enlisted during the year, of whom three were enlisted in Barbados.

A number of the men originally enlisted in Barbados completed their term of service, but all except three re-engaged for a further term of six years.

It is difficult to obtain recruits in the Bahamas sufficiently well qualified in the matter of education to allow of their being accepted.

The total expenditure upon the police force amounted to £5,605 9*s.* 5*d.*

The principal items of expenditure consisted of £4,369 6*s.* 5*d.* for pay (including good conduct pay), £425 11*s.* 6*d.* for clothing and accoutrements, and £478 13*s.* 3*d.* for allowances in lieu of rations.

Expenses of enlistment and gratuities and passage home to discharged constables came to £112 0*s.* 7*d.*, and the remaining £219 17*s.* 8*d.* was incurred on account of minor charges, such as movement of constables to out-islands, medical aid in out-islands and many other petty expenses.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Labour Contracts.

Steamers continue to call at Long Cay and Inagua and to engage labourers for work on board ship, and also to convey labourers to ports where they have been engaged to work by the agents of the various Companies who give the employment. The numbers engaged are increasing and are at present little short of five thousand yearly, as the following tabular return for the past three years shows:—

Inagua.						Long Cay.					
1901.		1902.		1903.		1901.		1902.		1903.	
Vessels.	Labourers.	Vessels.	Labourers.	Vessels.	Labourers.	Vessels.	Labourers.	Vessels.	Labourers.	Vessels.	Labourers.
71	2,880	63	2,829	68	3,341	95	2,103	93	2,613	*56	1,290

* For 10 months. Returns incomplete owing to the accidental destruction of some papers in Resident Justice's Office.

The following particulars, gathered from the reports of the Resident Justices at Inagua and Long Cay, will be of interest:—

From Inagua it is reported that, during the year, 2,496 labourers were engaged to work on board steamers in loading and un-loading cargo in Haiti, Jamaica, and South American ports, and about forty thousand dollars was received as wages. At present there are about 550 labourers employed by the Mexican Central Railroad Company, principally in loading and unloading ships, who receive sixteen dollars a month with food and lodging.

Half of each man's wages is remitted to the agent at Inagua, and is payable at the expiration of the contract on their return to Inagua.

The George D. Emery Company of Boston employs about 450 labourers in the cutting of mahogany in Nicaragua, who receive fifteen dollars monthly with food and lodging.

The amount received by labourers under these contracts reaches a total of about eighty-five thousand dollars yearly.

Labourers engaged to work on board ship are supposed to work at any kind of ordinary ship's work, and their wages are fifty cents a day with food, with ten cents an hour for overtime.

The Hamburg-American steamers have the labourers on board generally about fourteen days. Each man's earnings amount on the average to ten dollars a trip.

The mahogany ships to Bluefields and Belize are usually away from three to five weeks, according to the weather at the loading ports, and the men receive from fifteen to twenty-five dollars a trip.

The work of the men employed by the Mexican Central Railway Co., at Tampico, Mexico, is principally the loading and unloading of ships, and the wages are sixteen dollars a month with food and lodging. Half of their wages is paid to the men in Mexico, monthly, but the remaining half is paid to the agent at Inagua, and becomes payable on the conclusion of the contract term of service.

During the month of January, 1904, the Resident Justice reported that a new Company, "The Honduras Development Co.," trading in the banana business in Spanish Honduras, employed 100 men to work on its plantations.

The resumption of work on the Panama canal may be expected to increase largely the demand for labour of which there are signs already, as the Resident Justice at Long Cay reports in the month of April that seventy-five men were engaged under a six months' contract for work at Colon, Panama, at fifteen dollars a month and ten cents an hour for overtime, and that twenty-six men were also engaged for work at Santa Marta, Panama for eight months, at the same rate of wages and overtime allowances as above.

Future Prospects of Trade.

There is not much prospect of increasing trade unless the staple exports alluded to in Part II. of this report are supplemented by others, such as cotton and lumber or turpentine, in he production of which capital could be invested.

A lease of Crown Lands in the island of Abaco, including a large area of "pine barrens," has been granted to a Company with the object of cutting lumber and extracting turpentine.

There is a good market now for turpentine, but nothing has yet been accomplished.

A new process for extracting turpentine by distillation has recently been invented in the United States, so that the stumps and roots of trees felled for lumber are made to yield all the

turpentine they contain, which is often the greater part of what the whole tree would yield if subjected to the same process.

That such a process, if proved effective, as I understand is already the case, will supersede the ancient method of obtaining turpentine by making incisions in the bark of the growing tree, is certain, and as the new method promises a practically inexhaustible supply of turpentine for years to come, the present high prices in the market may not hold, in which case the prosecution of a turpentine industry at Abaco under the old system might not any longer offer inducements for the investment of capital.

Rates of Wages and Cost of Living.

The cost of living is very dear, as must necessarily be the case where a whole population lives on imported food subject to high duties, the imposition and maintenance of which have hitherto been unavoidable, there being no other system of taxation which would provide a revenue adequate to the needs of the Government.

On the other hand, the rates of wages are generally very high, about double what they are in the British West Indies, ranging from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per diem for unskilled labour, to 4*s.* and 6*s.* per diem for mechanics and artizans.

Work is easily obtainable in the island of New Providence, where there are numerous sisal and other plantations and where the Government is a large employer of labour on roads and other works, but in the out-islands, with few exceptions for districts in the neighbourhood of sisal plantations, the people are dependent on the produce of their small fields and what they can make out of the sea in sponging and fishing.

That they are not disinclined to work for fair wages is shown by the numbers of men on the out-islands who engage to work on board ship or on the docks in Mexican Gulf ports.

General Conditions.

Amongst the working classes there is no such grinding poverty as is often to be found in the islands of the Lesser Antilles, and in the island of New Providence, at least, which contains the chief town and nearly one-fourth of the whole population, work is to be had when desired and, if manual labour is despised, shop-keeping becomes a general resource.

Complaints are rife that the retail trade is declining but, if a fact, such slackness is not to be wondered at considering the

numbers of shops, which are out of all proportion to the wants of the population, for not only is the commercial quarter—Bay Street—lined with shops for a mile of its length but the populous quarter of Grants Town is full of them also, so that it seems impossible that there could be customers in sufficient numbers to make all of them profitable.

There is evidence of a considerable spirit of self-reliance and power of combination amongst the Bahamian population in the large number of Friendly Societies, of which there are forty-four in New Providence alone, eight in Andros Island, seventeen in the island of Eleuthera, and thirty in other islands, making a total of ninety-nine for the whole Colony.

Their ostensible objects are the burial of the dead, aiding sick members and widows and children of deceased members.

With the exception of the St. Andrew's Society, which is a charitable organization amongst the wealthier classes with 54 members and £1,290 of invested funds, the whole are founded and maintained by people of the working classes.

There are fourteen of these Societies with over one hundred members; the largest number being the Alexandra Union Congo, with four hundred members, in the island of New Providence, and the Inagua Friendly and Inagua Union, with 400 and 500 members respectively, but the greater number have a membership of between twenty and eighty, the total membership of all the Societies amalgamated reaching a total of 7,427, of which 3,015, or almost half, have their domicile in the island of New Providence.

Thirty-five Friendly Societies have no record of funds invested, but about two-thirds of the total number show amounts to their credit of sums varying between £10 and £50, and there are four with investments of over one hundred pounds, viz., the United Congo Branch, No. 1, with £147, the Order of Rechabites, with £191, the Governor's Harbour Oddfellows, with £300, and the Savannah Sound Friendly, with £112.

The total amount of invested funds, excluding the St. Andrew's Society, is £2,483, which is a good deal considering the constant current expenses of relief to the living and burial of the dead.

Funeral expenses must be particularly heavy in Nassau as in almost all these Societies attendance at the funeral of a deceased member is obligatory, absent members being liable to a fine, and the funeral cortége is therefore always a large one, and the drain on the funds for hearses, bands of music, and carriages must be very considerable.

In view of the large annual appropriations for education there is a growing sense of dissatisfaction with the results obtained, notwithstanding all the strenuous efforts made to

educate the working classes, and in some quarters there are calls for technical education in the Board Schools, and on a higher plane by an Industrial School for the Colony, but the apathy of the parents, their constant removal of their children from school as soon as they attain the age of thirteen years, and the refusal of the Legislature to raise the years of compulsory attendance beyond thirteen are all discouraging signs for educational reformers.

There is a belief also prevalent that there is much to be done to benefit the people by inducing them to settle on the land and grow minor products of economic value besides corn and root crops for their own consumption, and in this connexion the establishment of an Agricultural Board will afford a point of leverage to many sincere and capable persons who have the matter at heart and desire to bring about a state of agricultural prosperity.

J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,
Administrator.

9th July, 1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
408	Basutoland	1902–1903
409	Northern Nigeria	1902
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St. Lucia	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
414	Jamaica	"
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1895]) ...	1902
415	Falkland Islands	1902–1903
416	Leeward Islands...	"
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda	"
419	Weihaiwei	"
420	St. Helena	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar	"
423	Sierra Leone	"
424	Gambia	"
425	Ceylon	"
426	Gold Coast	"
427	Lagos	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica...	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 471.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1904-5.

(For Report for 1903–4, *see* No. 428.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1905.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN and SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.,
and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, Edinburgh;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1905.

[Cd. 2684-17.] *Price* 2½*d.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. FINANCIAL	4
II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES	10
III. LEGISLATION	18
IV. EDUCATION	19
V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	21
VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS	24
VII. VITAL STATISTICS	27
VIII POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES	29
IX. MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE	31
X. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	31

No. 471.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1903–4, *see* No 428.)

GOVERNOR GREY-WILSON to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House, Nassau,
17th August, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1904-1905, and the Report thereon, which has been mostly written by Mr. Spencer Churchill, the Colonial Secretary, now on leave.

2. As Mr. Churchill is retiring from the service almost immediately, this will be the last of his many admirable reports.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY-WILSON,
Governor.

1125 Wt 23792 11/05 D & S 5 22576 A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR 1904-5.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total Revenue for the financial year 1904-1905 amounted to £71,112 7*s.* 5*d.*, a decrease of £264 15*s.* 11*d.* as compared with the amount collected in the preceding year, which was £71,377 3*s.* 4*d.*

The under-mentioned table gives the details under the various heads compared with those of the preceding year:—

Comparative Statement of the Revenue.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1903-04.	Amount Collected in 1904-05.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	59,880 16 0	59,065 15 2	—	815 0 10
Port and Harbour Dues ...	469 1 3	430 15 10	—	38 5 5
Licenses and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	4,394 5 5	4,443 19 1	49 13 8	—
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes, &c.	1,884 10 3	4,086 13 0	2,202 2 8	—
Post Office and Telegraphs...	4,059 9 9	2,552 14 6	—	1,506 15 3
Rents from Government Property.	267 0 11	300 0 0	32 19 1	—
Contributions to Widows and Orphans' Fund.	153 7 8	119 6 11	—	34 0 8
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	88 10 5	5 2 11	—	83 7 6
Interest on Investments under Surplus Monies Act, 1898.	180 1 8	108 0 0	—	72 1 8
Total...	71,377 3 4	71,112 7 5	2,284 15 5	2,549 11 4

The decrease in the receipts for Customs was due to the ordinary changes in trade.

The increase under the head of Fees of Court or Office and decrease in receipts for Post Office and Telegraphs are

merely items of account. Whereas in the year under review the receipts for sales of stamps for all purposes have been placed under the head of Fees of Court, &c., in the preceding year the sales for revenual purposes only were placed under this head, sales for postal purposes appearing under Post Office Revenue.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure.

Service.	Year ended 31st March, 1904.	Year ended 31st March, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt.	6,649 10 3	6,607 15 8	—	41 14 7
2. Pensions	3,925 10 7	3,498 14 6	—	426 16 1
3. House of Assembly ...	988 10 4	989 16 5	1 6 1	—
4. Legislative Council ...	68 6 8	71 18 4	3 6 8	—
5. Governor and Staff ...	1,360 11 0	1,232 17 7	—	127 13 5
6. Colonial Secretary's Department.	1,123 6 8	1,006 8 3	—	116 18 5
7. Receiver-General's Department.	3,036 2 7	2,980 18 5	—	55 4 2
8. Judicial Department ...	6,643 11 5	6,527 7 0	—	116 4 5
9. Registrar's Department	521 5 6	535 13 6	14 8 0	—
10. Constabulary and Police	5,605 9 5	5,662 6 10	56 17 5	—
11. Fire Department ...	452 15 11	427 8 2	—	25 7 9
12. Surveyor-General's Department.	464 1 0	448 5 0	—	15 16 0
13. Audit Department ...	343 6 8	356 6 1	12 19 5	—
14. Post Office Department	7,630 2 6	7,359 0 9	—	271 1 9
15. Telegraph and Telephone Department.	939 16 2	1,115 19 11	176 3 9	—
16. Ecclesiastical Department.	230 0 0	230 0 0	—	—
17. Education Department	4,828 0 0	4,838 0 0	10 0 0	—
18. Public Libraries ...	455 0 0	455 0 0	—	—
19. Port and Marine Department.	2,149 5 7	1,664 7 9	—	484 17 10
20. Medical Department ...	794 8 9	728 17 4	—	65 11 5
21. Charitable Institutions	8,607 16 7	7,945 11 9	—	662 4 10
22. Prisons	1,712 0 6	1,690 8 3	—	21 12 3
23. Public Works	12,048 4 6	10,940 3 8	—	1,108 0 10
24. Miscellaneous	3,461 14 8	2,167 14 8	—	1,294 0 0
25. Board of Agriculture ...	—	250 0 0	250 0 0	—
26. Sponge and Turtle Fishery Board.	—	95 0 0	95 0 0	—
Total	74,038 17 3	69,825 14 10	620 1 4	4,833 3 9

The expenditure compared with that of the preceding year shows a decrease of £4,213, due chiefly to certain large payments for special services in the preceding year for surveys of Nassau Harbour and the soils of the Bahamas, and hurricane expenses in 1903, and in the year now dealt with to the death of pensioners and a reduction in subsidies for mail services.

Statement of Total Revenue and Expenditure for the Past Five Years.

Year.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	78,651	82,837
1901–2	77,780	81,135
1902–3	72,442	74,614
1903–4	71,377	74,038
1904–5	71,112	69,825

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on the 31st of March, 1905.

Assets.				—	Liabilities.	—
				£ s. d		£ s. d.
Cash in Colonial Chest				3,080 2 8	On Current Account—	
„ at Out Islands and in transit				440 10 11	Salaries	26 5 0
„ in hands of Crown Agents				1,276 1 2	Pensions	304 2 0
Hotel Fund—Investments*				9,728 19 8	Miscellaneous	498 14 4
Savings Bank—Invested to 30th June, 1904, £20,915 11s. 9d. costing ...				20,477 13 8	Savings Bank—Due to depositors (including interest to 30th June, 1904).	19,787 18 5
„ Income Tax				70 4 0		
„ Balance Cash—	£	s.	d.			
In Office... ...	31	15	1			
In Bank ...	41	17	0			
				73 12 1	Excess of assets over liabilities	16,570 5 11
Cable Repair Fund—Invested ...	9,016	5	1†			
„ On deposit, Crown Agents	430	0	0			
„ Cash, Crown Agents ...	32	10	3			
	†9,478	15	4			
Customs—Bonds maturing				1,878 8 2		
Advances—Admiralty				62 2 5		
„ Miscellaneous				99 10 11		
Total Assets				37,187 5 8	Total Liabilities	37,187 5 8

* £1,551 12s. 10d. on deposit London and Westminster Bank, ordered to be invested.

† To this Fund Colony contributes £700 a year up to 1911 inclusive. In 1912 Government and Contractors divide whatever sum stands to credit of this Fund.

(D.) Public Debt.

The total public debt is £103,426, the particulars of which are shown in the following statement :—

Amount.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.	Provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund.	Amount of Original Debt.	Amount Repaid.	Remarks.
£ s. d.	£ s.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
25,300 0 0	4 10 per cent.	In 1885. The failure of the Nassau Public Bank to liquidate certain claims against the Government.	Principal and interest secured upon General Revenue and Assets of the Colony. The interest on the total nominal amount of debentures issued under the Act and the Sinking Fund (10*s.* per centum on original debt) are paid half-yearly to the Crown Agents, and by them used in payment of the interest on outstanding debentures, expenses of advertisements, &c., and the remainder invested by them and applied towards reducing the debt either by purchase in the open market or by annual drawings. 48 and 49 Vict., cap. 24.	35,000 0 0	9,700 0 0	Eight debentures of £100 each were drawn for payment by the Crown Agents. The fifteenth annual drawing took place in 1904.
48,126 0 2	4 0 per cent.	In 1888. For the purpose of redeeming outstanding debentures which had from time to time been issued within these Islands.	By Act 51 Vict., c. 9. Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury, Debentures redeemable 35 years after their respective dates. A Sinking Fund was established by the Act 63 Vict., cap. 7, to which the first contribution was made by a payment of £10,000 from Surplus Funds, and it was enacted that payment from General Revenue of £900 should be annually contributed.	48,126 0 2		
30,000 0 0	4 0 per cent.	January, 1892. Telegraphic communication between the Bahama Islands and ports beyond the limits of the Colony.	£630 per annum paid out of Treasury to Crown Agents towards the Sinking Fund. Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury. 55 Vic., cap. 1.	30,000 0 0		
103,426 0 2						

(E.) Currency.

British sterling has been the money of account since 1838, and the varying attempts from time to time made to fix by law the value of foreign coins in terms of sterling money, and at an approximate sterling equivalent, have not been successful.

When the intrinsic value of the foreign silver coins, in respect of a country having no gold standard, was of a market value equal to that assigned to it in terms of British currency the supply was limited and not unsatisfactory, but so soon as the intrinsic value of the foreign silver coin rose above the value assigned to it in terms of British currency the foreign silver disappeared, and whenever (as was generally the case) the intrinsic value of the foreign silver coin fell below the value assigned to it in terms of British currency the Colony was flooded with foreign token.

The fall in the price of silver in the last century compelled the Colony from time to time to demonetize all foreign silver coin (with one exception), and each demonetization entailed upon the Government more or less serious loss and very great inconvenience.

American coins now are the only foreign coins that are legal tender in the Colony. By proclamation of 1853 the following values were assigned to American gold coin in terms of British currency:—

$20	was equivalent to	£4	2*s.*	0*d.*
$10	was equivalent to	£2	1*s.*	0*d.*
$5	was equivalent to	£1	0*s.*	6*d.*
$2½	was equivalent to	£0	10*s.*	3*d.*
$1	was equivalent to	£0	4*s.*	1*d.*

and by proclamation of 1864 the following values were assigned to American silver coins in terms of British silver:—

$½	was equivalent to	2*s.*
$¼	was equivalent to	1*s.*

To those two proclamations no very serious objection need now be taken, because the value of the gold dollar is fixed in terms of British currency at a fraction below its intrinsic value, and the value of the silver coin is fixed in terms of British

currency at considerably below its exchange value as a token of American gold, but there have been times when American silver coins were not of their token value in relation to American gold, and it would therefore have been an avoidance of risk to have left American coins to be dealt with by banks or exchange houses at such values as the market of the day assigned to them.

Sir Gilbert Carter, in his report for 1902, states that the American silver half-dollar was current at 2*s.* and the quarter-dollar at 1*s.*, but that "it has recently been found convenient to accept these coins at their face value." How the face value of an American token coin is expressed in terms of British currency is not clearly shown, but what took place was that all Government accounting offices were authorized to accept the American silver dollar at four shillings and twopence, and the half-dollar at two shillings and a penny, and the quarter at one shilling and a halfpenny sterling.

In the year under review the Legislature passed an Act to give legislative sanction to this fictitious value of the dollar, but this Act was disallowed by His Majesty upon the ground that it was open to the serious objection of assigning to a foreign gold coin an exchange value in terms of British currency which exceeds the intrinsic value in the terms of that currency.

The value assigned to American silver coins by proclamation will now come into operation, leaving it open to the Colony to adopt a decimal currency, which the House of Assembly favours academically, but which it is by no means evident that the Colony desires or will willingly accept.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The total imports are valued at £297,241, including specie £13,750, and were derived from the following countries:—

United Kingdom, £62,935, including £1,042 of specie.

United States, £219,937, including £12,708 of specie.

British West Indies, £5,746.

Foreign Countries other than the United States, £6,164.

The following table gives a list of the principal articles imported as compared with the previous year, showing the increase and decrease:—

Principal Articles Imported.

Articles.	Value of Imports 1904.	Value of Imports 1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and porter	1,612	1,996	—	384
Alcoholic liquors	7,118	6,304	814	—
Butter and cheese	7,122	7,829	—	707
Cattle...	2,517	2,256	261	—
Cigars and tobacco	5,394	5,487	—	93
Corn meal and hominy ...	8,338	10,414	—	2,076
Flour	31,853	37,842	—	5,989
Hay, oats, and bran... ...	3,420	4,173	—	753
Ice	2,699	2,539	160	—
Lard	5,337	5,182	155	—
Lumber and shingles ...	8,562	9,316	—	754
Machinery	2,743	4,173	—	1,430
Fertilisers	3,414	2,242	1,172	—
Fresh meats	2,629	3,816	—	1,187
Salt meats, &c.	13,136	13,025	111	—
Kerosene oil	4,229	4,037	192	—
Rice	9,711	11,095	—	1,384
Rope and canvas	18,505	5,189	13,316	—
Soap	1,910	2,315	—	405
Sugar	10,491	9,216	1,275	—
Coffee and tea	2,989	2,479	510	—
Wines...	1,121	1,607	—	486
Textile fabrics	47,778	46,143	1,635	—
Earthenware, glassware, &c.	39,792	40,107	—	315
Tinware, hardware, &c. ...	6,214	11,927	—	5,713
Preserved meats, fish ...	17,690	15,419	2,271	—

The total exports are valued at £194,936, £189,860 being produce of the Colony consisting of hemp, fruit, and sponge, and £5,076 of British and foreign produce.

The following table gives the quantities and values of the chief articles exported during the year, and for the preceding year 1903:—

Article.	Exports 1904.		Exports 1903.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Sponge ... ... lbs.	1,307,958	105,718	1,515,626	104,394
Pineapples ... ... dozen.	228,608	22,616	481,693	34,471
Oranges ... ... No.	272,955	338	699,712	922
Grape fruit ... No.	231,096	1,374	357,308	1,992
Canned fruits ... cases.	65,250	13,124	29,112	7,689
Bahamas hemp ... lbs.	22,188,825	29,557	3,222,759	38,805
Turtle shell ... lbs.	8,796	8,634	19,212	8,630
Shells (conch) ... No.	673,716	2,050	578,288	2,078
Bark ... ... lbs.	132,839	2,214	159,865	2,678
Hardwood ... ... tons.	361	668	1,903	1,331

Appended is a return of imports and exports for the five years 1900 to 1904:—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Value of Total Imports and Exports.
	£	£	£
1900	335,269	172,317	507,586
1901-2*	408,648	222,178	630,826
1902	306,098	207,601	513,699
1903	294,590	210,493	505,083
1904	297,241	194,936	492,177

* These figures are for a period of 15 months.

(B.) Mines and Quarries, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

There are no mines in the Colony; quarries are worked of a soft limestone which is the building material used for all substantial buildings in New Providence and is exported to some extent to Jacksonville in Florida. It is valued at the quarry when sawn into blocks at tenpence per cubic foot.

Both pine-apple canning and extraction of sisal fibre and packing for market are industries which depend in the first instance on agriculture as the factories obtain their supplies of raw material from the fields.

Pine-apple canning is taking the place of the export of fruit, and the Nassau factory of the J. S. Johnson Co. exported 47,973 cases, consuming 15,329 dozen pine-apples, and giving employment to 300 persons weekly; at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, the canning factory worked for forty days, and filled 22,450 cases, consuming 10,000 dozen pine-apples, and giving employment to 150 persons daily.

The factories for extracting sisal fibre are much more numerous and usually stand in the midst of the fields in which the plants are growing.

The following are a few interesting particulars of the present condition of this industry:—

The J. S. Johnson Co. have two factories and two machines for extracting and cleaning fibre, have 2,500 acres planted and an output of 253 bales (about 46 tons).

Menendez & Co. have three factories, about 1,250 acres bearing, one Todd and one Villamor machine in use—output of 296 bales.

In the island of San Salvador there are two sisal factories belonging to the Bahamas Sisal Plantation with two Todd cleaning machines and two oil engines—output 51,700 lbs.

At Abaco there is a factory belonging to Sawyer & Co. with two cleaning machines and an output of 32 tons of fibre, and at the island of Little Abaco one of the first established of the companies continues at work, making constant improvements, and has now ten miles of railroad, two cleaning machines with an output of 160 tons.

There are also two factories at Inagua, and one at Andros Island, the latter having an output of 50 bales.

The sponge and turtle fisheries are commercially valuable to the Colony.

The ordinary deep sea fishing, though contributing by large supplies of food to the general wealth, does not afford any material for fish curing for export.

In the sponge fishing business at the end of the year 1900 there were 265 schooners of from five to 43 tons burden, and 322 sloops of from one to 16 tons burden, with an aggregate tonnage of 5,952.

Attached to these vessels were 2,517 open boats, and 5,517 men and boys were employed on them.

In addition to the above there were 291 open boats engaged, manned by the owners living on the coasts of several of the out-islands to the number of 445.

Much alarm has been felt respecting the future prospects of this industry, which is of so great economic importance to the Colony.

Disquieting reports as to the exhaustion of the sponge beds and the increasing quantities of small sponges brought to market which should have been left on the beds to grow to a proper marketable size led to the enactment of a law under which a Sponge Fisheries Board is established with certain powers for the regulation of the fisheries, and provided with a small annual grant for expenses.

The Board was immediately appointed and has been engaged now for nearly a year obtaining information as to the regulation of the sponge fisheries on the coasts of Cuba and Florida, and enquiring into the conditions prevalent on the sponging grounds of the Colony.

Recently, as appears from the annual report of the Board to the Governor and Legislature, the Bight of Abaco has been examined and the result fully confirms the suspicions previously entertained.

This bight, once the most valuable as well as the very first area worked in the Bahamas, has suffered the most marked deterioration, such as to justify the most stringent measures that the Board may adopt.

The report states that the beds are thickly sown with small sponges which are constantly being gathered by the itinerant fishermen who are continually working over these fields pulling all the sponge they can find without regard to size or quality, in consequence of which there are very few large sponges to be found anywhere.

Captain Richard Bethel, who was employed by the Board to make the survey, was favourably impressed with the productive powers of the beds; in certain localities the bars are said to be literally covered with sponges, which if allowed to grow up to good sizes would make these fields as rich any in the waters of the Bahamas.

It is encouraging to know that the spongers living in the settlements all round the coast are in sympathy with the movement for protecting the industry against the waseful methods complained of, and that they have expressed their perfect readiness to submit to any reasonable laws having for their object the protection of the young sponge, they being quite convinced that the present practice of hooking small sponge must eventually ruin the whole industry.

Turtle Fisheries.—The success of this branch of the industry is assured, but does not, at present, show any great signs of development, which, however, may not be far distant as the resident justice at Inagua reported last October that "Mr. West's hatchery at Durham's Creek is doing well. He has clearly proved that turtles can be as easily hatched, artificially, as chickens."

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The pine-apple crop this year is good, and the fruit of good size, but there has been a falling off in recent years which has caused anxiety, and it is universally acknowledged that something must be done to improve the cultivation of the fruit and methods of planting, and to ascertain what fertilizers are most wanted.

Great hopes are entertained that the pine-apple industry may be saved with the aid of scientific methods, especially since the canning industry has so largely superseded the export of raw fruit, and the fruit is reckoned superior to that of other countries for the purposes of packing and tinning.

An Agricultural Board has been appointed with a small annual grant of £500, out of which has to come the salary

of a curator for the new agricultural station which, it is hoped, may be established before long.

The Board has not hitherto been successful in obtaining the services of a qualified curator, but having been able, by arrangements made during the last session of the Legislature, to offer more liberal terms for such services it is now hoped that a qualified curator may be engaged this year.

The Board has a piece of land, about three acres, which can be added to if required.

The Board has lately imported long-staple Sea Island cotton seed from the United States, and from the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, altogether about 2½ tons, and distributed it in the out-islands.

They are also getting onion seed from Teneriffe for distribution, and have made experimental shipments of grape-fruit and oranges to Canada and England.

In regard to citrus fruit much has to be learnt by careful enquiry and experiment as to the growth and yield of different varieties. Some that yield well are found after a couple of years to die out, and the peculiarities of each known variety must be made the subject of study.

The inoculation of seeds with the nitrogen-extracting bacteria, which the Washington Bureau of Agriculture now enables the American farmer to practise at a very small cost, has been experimentally carried out by the Board with good results, and they will shortly be distributing inoculated seeds.

The establishment of the Agricultural Board, consisting of persons keenly interested in the agricultural prospects of the Colony, will be of continually increasing benefit as the peasant proprietors in the out-islands come under its influence and consent to be taught practical lessons in the art which they have carried on without intelligence for so many years.

(D.) Land Grants.

The total number of acres granted throughout the 15 island districts of the Colony is calculated at 350,889¾, and the total number remaining ungranted at 1,767,448¼.

The total number of acres of Crown Lands sold during the past year was 236¼.

Of these 55¾ acres were sold at the island of Abaco at 8*s.* 3*d.* per acre, and 70¼ acres at Eleuthera at 7*s.* 2*d.* per acre, also 59 acres at Cat Island at 6*s.* 1*d.* per acre.

(E.) Shipping.

The numbers and tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year 1904 are given and compared with the figures for 1903 in the subjoined return:—

—.	1903.				1904.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British West Indies	60	2,022	69	2,126	51	2,074	56	1 202
U. S. America ...	142	16,349	137	14,217	118	13,155	120	14,278
South America ...	1	256	2	219	1	363	1	7
Hayti	31	622	23	270	39	442	29	399
Cuba	8	547	5	1,768	10	517	11	530
Mexico	—	—	3	610	—	—	1	214

In the following return the numbers and tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared during the year 1904 are given and compared with the numbers and tonnage recorded in the preceding year:—

—.	1903.				1904.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	1	2,318	—	—	2	7,520	—	—
U,S. America ...	174	319,806	150	256,902	185	326,873	151	244,250
British West Indies	11	15,881	29	73,295	13	21,432	30	85,389
South America ...	6	25,188	10	45,824	18	40,138	11	28,750
Hayti	30	41,944	52	77,975	13	19,155	51	80,618
Cuba	38	71,450	28	50,174	27	56,875	19	36,135
Mexico	4	5,783	14	20,717	5	9,547	18	33,746
South America ...	2	3,325	2	3,325	18	40,138	11	28,750
Porto Rico	1	1,621	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish West Indies	3	4,356	—	—	1	1,681	—	—
French West Indies	1	1,095	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Honduras ...	7	34,610	3	14,349	4	8,024	3	6,330
U. S. Colombia ...	9	14,948	—	—	19	32,380	—	—

The numbers and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year 1904, distinguishing nationalities, are given in the following return:—

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	151	9,708	155	9,853	44	91,933	43	90,109
American	49	7,163	47	7 069	111	188,461	111	188,461
Russian	1	214	1	214	—	—	—	—
Cuban	2	60	2	60	—	—	—	—
Haytian	17	253	17	253	—	—	—	—
Dominican .	4	26	4	26	—	—	—	—
German	—	—	—	—	126	239,327	126	239,327
Norwegian ...	—	—	—	—	6	3,904	6	3,904

In the following return a comparative statement is given of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years:—

Year.	Total Number of Vessels.		Total Tonnage.		Total Vessels and Tonnage.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1900	623	619	557,211	556,653	1,242	1,113,866
1901-2	757	754	648,049	645,631	1,511	1,293,680
1902	566	564	522,035	522,553	1,130	1,044,588
1903	529	527	562,121	661,766	1,056	1,223,887
1904	511	512	595,049	539,276	1,023	1,134,325

With reference to the trade still carried on under sail the figures given show it to be almost stationary, the tonnage cleared under the United States flag having been 14,278, as compared with 14,212 tons in the preceding year.

There is also an insignificant trade carried on with Jamaica, Hayti, and Cuba in sloops or schooners of small size.

The movements of steam vessels represent the fortnightly arrivals and departure of the steamers of the New York and Cuba Steamship Company under contract with this Government for a mail service, steamers run chiefly for passenger traffic

during the tourist season from December to April by the same line, and also from Miami to Nassau by the Florida East Coast Company.

The rest is accounted for by the steamers of various nationalities which pass through the Bahamas Channel on their route to Cuba or the Gulf ports to pick up or bring labourers as described under part X. of this report "Extent of Immigration and Emigration."

There is a decrease in tonnage under the British flag of 60,844 tons, which is to be accounted for by the sale in New York of the locally owned steamship Antilia, which made regular voyages between Nassau and New York throughout the year.

There is a decrease of tonnage under the American flag of 2,986 tons, and an increase of German tonnage of 57,890 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Session of the Legislature was opened on the 11th January, 1905, and prorogued on the 18th April, 1905.

Eighteen Acts, including the Annual Appropriation Act, were passed, and received the Governor's assent.

The Attorney-General conducted the business of the Government in the House of Assembly during the entire Session, and he has supplied the following statement of the principal measures passed, briefly summarizing their object and scope:—

1. An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to quarantine.

This Act consolidates and modernises a great mass of obsolete legislation. The sanitary machinery of the Act is left to be worked out by rules and regulations to be framed by the Governor in Council. These will be strictly in accordance with the principles adopted at the Paris Convention of 1903 and the Barbados Convention of 1904.

2. An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the sponge and turtle fisheries.

This Act condenses a quantity of referential legislation encrusted with a series of amendments and accretions, which has for some time regulated the chief industry of the Colony. It deals with the relations of shipowners, masters and seamen; the discipline of the voyage; offences by all parties concerned; the protection of children; the prevention of over-manning; and the disposition and distribution of the proceeds of the voyage.

3. An Act for the protection of wild birds.

The Colony has a few rare and beautiful birds, which are a prey to invaders from America. In particular the flamingo is

in need of systematic protection. The Act comprises a comprehensive schedule, fixing "close times" for the breeding periods of the various birds enumerated; provides for the establishment of reserves; and imposes stringent penalties on predatory bird-catchers.

4. An Act to amend the law relating to lotteries and gaming.

This is a simple Act, replacing an Act which was passed in a panic, and was consequently altogether too wide in its incidence to have any effect.

5. An Act to amend the law relating to voluntary conveyances.

This brings the law of the Colony on this subject into harmony with that of the mother country.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary.

Referring to the annual report of the Board of Education little difference is found in the conditions attending primary education during the past year when compared with those of previous years, as presented in former reports.

The Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, are, of course, concerned solely with Board Schools, the private and denominational schools, which offer primary education to hundreds of children, being entirely withdrawn from the purview of the Board, and almost unknown to the Inspector of Schools, who is not allowed to enter them.

The statistical information supplied by the Board of Education relates, therefore, solely to schools under the Board, concerning which the following are the principal items:—

Number of schools wholly maintained out of the annual grant	45
Number of pupils who attend Board Schools during some part of the year	7,393
Average roll	6,226
Average attendance	4,533
Number of schools which received grants-in-aid	11
Number of pupils who attended aided schools	1,105
Average roll of aided schools	1,017
Average attendance in aided schools	585
Total number of schools under superintendence of the Board of Education	60
Number of pupils who attended them during some part of the year	8,706
Average roll	7,423
Average attendance	5,268

The teaching staff under the Board of Education comprises the following:—

Principal teachers	44
Assistant teachers	3
Pupil teachers	5
Monitors	107
Students in training	2
Employed in aided schools	13
Total	179

The annual cost to the Colony of all expenditure exclusive of the salaries of the inspecting staff has been £4,428, and special building grants made in 1901 are still being drawn upon for construction of buildings.

From careful examination of all the data the Superintendent deduces as a result that the cost of each pupil in average attendance is 19*s.* 3*d.*, and considers these figures very low, whether absolutely or by comparison with the cost of education in other places, and only made possible by such a narrowing down of expenditure as only necessity can justify.

The Superintendent mentions, by way of encouragement to those who are impatient for larger results, that some twenty years ago the number of pupils in average attendance at all the schools was 1,649, as compared with 5,268 at the present time, and the average cost per child was £1 12*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with 19*s.* 1¾*d.*, at the present.

Besides the Board Schools, concerning which alone the foregoing statistical information is furnished, the Anglican Church in this Colony possesses and maintains 32 schools, five of which are in the island of New Providence and town of Nassau, with a roll of 721 and an average of 226.

The remaining 27 are in the out-islands and show a total of 1,301 scholars on the rolls with an average of 734.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools and three small private schools.

The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following:—

SUMMARY.

—	Boys	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools	3,288	2,938	6,226
Aided private	530	487	1,017
Church of England	998	1,024	2,022
Roman Catholic	196	310	506
Private Schools	113	155	268

(B.) Secondary.

The provision for secondary education is not made by Government, nor enforced by any law, but it is made to some extent by private organizations connected with religious bodies.

Instruction of a higher grade is thus provided for 44 boys and 97 girls, and the schools pass under the following designations:—

Young Ladies' High School (girls only).
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (girls only).
Queen's College (mixed).
St. Hilda's High School (mixed).
Nassau Grammar School (boys only).

The above schools are all in Nassau, and there is also a small mixed school with eight boys and 17 girls in Governor's Harbour, island of Eleuthera.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A). Hospitals. (B.) Asylums. (C.) Poor Houses.

These institutions being all within the same enclosure under one Board of Management, and with the same medical, nursing, and clerical staff for the whole of them, are not separated in the reports furnished by the Surgeon Superintendent on their condition.

In his report for 1904, the Surgeon Superintendent gives the number of inmates on 1st January of that year, viz.:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	42	21	63
Victoria Infirmary	15	14	29
Lunatic Asylum	17	20	37
Leper Hospital	7	1	8
	81	56	137

The number of patients admitted during the year was 651, making the total number under treatment 788.

Of this number 80 were discharged, "not improved"; 208, "relieved"; and 206, "recovered."

108 deaths occurred during the year.

The Surgeon Superintendent, remarking on the high death-rate, explains it by showing that very many cases are brought to the hospital in the last stage of disease when it is impossible for medical aid to be of much use to them, and also that many patients leave the hospital against advice, the number who thus left during the past year having been as many as 67.

At the close of the year there remained in the several institutions 171 patients, distributed as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	46	33	79
Victoria Infirmary	24	18	42
Lunatic Asylum	24	19	43
Leper Hospital	6	1	7
	100	71	171

The out-patients department was conducted as usual by the Assistant Medical Officer of the institution, who attended 3,848 cases at the hospital dispensary, and visited 868 new cases at their own homes.

Prescriptions to the number of 18,430 were made up at the hospital dispensary, and dispensed as follows:—

Asylum.	Out-Patients.	Gaol and police.
6968	9,857	1,565

Great improvements in the general condition and working of this institution have been carried out under the incessant care and supervision of Dr. Parsons, who has now left his post of Surgeon Superintendent and taken up the appointment of Assistant Colonial Surgeon at Gibraltar.

A Board of Commissioners much increased in numbers and including two ladies has worked hard to bring the institution up to a creditable position amongst its fellow institutions throughout the West Indies, and much success has been achieved, whilst changes in the nursing staff, which could only be brought into effect after legislation for the purpose, are now in operation.

There are two trained nurses from England, the senior of whom acts as matron and teacher of the nurses engaged on

probation, who will eventually form a trained staff of nurses engaged on the establishment, a feature, hitherto, conspicuously absent in this and probably in other similar institutions in the West Indies.

(E.) Savings Bank.

The Postmaster of the Colony in his report for the year ending 30th June, 1904, of the transactions of the Post Office Savings Bank gives the following particulars:—

——	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Deposits	3,217	7,883 14 4
Withdrawals	2,230	7,845 14 1

Number of depositors on 30th June, 1904, 1,700.

Balance due to depositors on 30th June, 1904, £19,787 18*s.* 5*d.*

Assets and liabilities are shown as follows:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Investments in Colonial Government Securities	20,477	13	8
Income Tax	70	4	0
Cash in hand	73	12	1
	20,621	9	9

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
Depositors' current accounts	19,775	11	0
Unclaimed accounts	12	6	7
	19,787	18	5
Surplus	833	11	4
	20,621	9	9

The following is a comparative statement of the figures for the year ending 30th June, 1904, and the preceding year:—

For year ending.	No. of Depositors.	Balance due Depositors.	Assets.	Surplus.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
June 30, 1903.	1,610	19,302 12 8	19,956 9 10	653 17 2
„ 1904.	1,700	19,787 18 5	20,621 9 9	833 11 4
Increase ...	90	485 5 9	664 19 11	179 14 2

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

The police report for New Providence shows that the number of persons prosecuted by the police was 1,158, of whom 538 were arrested and 620 reported.

Bad language and crimes of violence are very prevalent in the streets of Nassau whilst larceny and drunkenness are the causes of many arrests and prosecutions, as witness the subjoined figures:—

Bad language	238
Common assault, fighting, and stone throwing	174
Larceny	122
Drunkenness	74

More serious crimes involving injury to persons and property are treated of under criminal statistics.

Of the remaining number of minor offences reported by the police the larger numbers are for breaches of street traffic and other municipal regulations, amounting to 280, and there are 170 cases of trespass by stock in the public streets.

(B.) Prisons.

The large and well-built prison at Nassau is never overcrowded or even filled and the accommodation, therefore, for individual prisoners is always in accordance with modern ideas respecting separate sleeping rooms and an abundance of cubic space.

There are 101 cells or rooms, and the daily average number in the prison last year was only 54·45.

Influenza has been endemic, occurring chiefly during the winter months.

The total number of persons committed for purposes of penal imprisonment was 242, of whom 185 were for short sentences of three months or less.

The proportions of the sexes in adults were:—

Adults.		Juveniles.
Men.	Women.	
134	86	22

Habitual offenders numbered 67, classified as to sex and age as follows:—

Men.	Women.	Juveniles.
24	39	4

The Inspector of Prisons reported that the maintenance of discipline necessitated the infliction of punishments to the number of 192, of which two only were whippings, one being an adult and the offence violence, and the other a boy whipped for smoking.

Other punishments were:—

Solitary confinement	67
Lower diet	82
Crank	37
Forfeiture of industrial marks	4

The sanitary condition of the prison is stated to have been very good; there were four deaths, declared at the inquests not attributable to any causes arising from confinement in the prison, and out of a daily average of 54·43 inmates there were only 11 admissions to hospital, a condition which the Inspector surmises could not well be surpassed in any institution.

The Inspector reports a marked improvement on the female side and attributes it to the fact that some of the women of worst character have either died or left the Colony.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons brought before the Magistrates Courts by arrest, warrant, or summons was 2,849, a decrease of 157 as compared with the number for 1903.

The following table shows an abstract of the criminal statistics of the last four years:—

—	1901–2	1902.	1903	1904.
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	3,021	2,827	3,006	2,849
The number of summary convictions :				
(1) For offences against the person	276	290	278	277
(2) For prædial larceny	24	35	50	43
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	99	101	119	102
(4) For other offences	1,774	1,756	1,717	1,922
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :				
(1) For offences against the person	8	10	15	11
(2) For prædial larceny	—	1	—	—
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	12	16	19	11
(4) For other offences	1	6	2	4
The number of persons acquitted :				
(1) In the Inferior Courts ...	523	385	481	385
(2) In the Superior Courts ...	6	20	8	27

In the Magistrates Courts the cases were disposed of as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence	339
Dismissed on the merits	285
Summarily convicted	2,250
Committed for trial	51

With regard to the summary convictions the punishments inflicted were:—

Fines	1,687
Imprisonment in lieu of fines	183
Peremptory imprisonment	130
Whipping	53
Bound over with or without sureties	291

With regard to the classes of offences included in the above detailed statement of convictions these were in the Magistrates Courts:—

Offences against the person	277
Prædial larceny	49
Offences against property other than prædial larceny	102
Other offences	1,920

Under the designation of other offences are included breaches of Revenue laws, prosecutions under Compulsory Education Act, Street Traffic and other Police Acts.

In the Superior Courts there were 28 convictions and 27 acquittals.

The convictions were in the following classes:—

Offences against the person	11
Offences against property	13
Other offences	4

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The population shows a moderate annual increase:—

The number of inhabitants in 1903 was given at 56,113;

The births during the year 1904, 2,239;

The deaths during the year 1904, 1,219;

The number of inhabitants in 1904 is therefore given at 57,133, showing an increase of 1,020.

(B.) Public Health.

The general state of the public health throughout the year 1904 was good.

Malarial fevers were chiefly of a benign type and not very prevalent.

Diarrhœa and dysentery have been more or less prevalent, and a few sporadic cases of typhoid fever appeared during the year.

(C) Sanitation.

Frequent inspections of the city and suburbs have been made by the Sanitary Inspector, and a number of seizures of diseased and unwholesome articles of food were made under the act 45 Vic. cap. 2.

The general sanitation of the islands has been very satisfactory, the water supply from springs and cisterns abundant, and drainage good.

Successful vaccinations were performed to the number of 251 in the island of New Providence, and 1,423 in the settlements of the out-islands in the course of the year.

(D.) Climate.

The rainfall during the year amounted to 50·57 inches, being less by ·88 inches than the rainfall of the preceding year.

The following tabular return shows the temperature, the rainfall, and the direction and force of the wind month by month for the twelve months of 1904:—

Meteorological Returns for the Year.

—	Temperature.				Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
								Miles.
January ...	77	66·7	10·3	71·8	·12	67	N.E. to S.E	10
February	77·3	68·1	9·2	72·7	·08	68	N.E. to E.	9
March ...	79·6	68·4	11·2	74	1·82	67	„	10
April ...	82	70	12	76	1·56	67	E. to S.E.	10
May ...	84	72	12	78	8·79	72	N.E. to E.	8
Juue ...	84·5	73	11·5	78·7	7·53	68	E. to S.E.	10
Jnly ...	87	74·6	12·4	80·8	3·67	73	„	9
August ...	87·1	75·7	11·4	81·4	4·85	75	„	9
September	87	74	13	80·5	7·06	76	„	9
October ...	85	72·3	12·7	78·6	13·54	81	N. to E.	9
November	78·8	68·3	10·5	73·7	·82	75	N.E. to E.	10
December	79	67	12	73	·73	75	„	8
Year ...	82·4	70·9	11·3	76·6	50·57	72	N.E. to S.E.	9·3

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Post Office.

During the year ended 31st March, 1905, the post office revenue amounted to £3,366 10*s.* 5*d.*, being £114 15*s.* 5*d.* in excess of that of the previous year.

The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 468,066, an increase of 44,862 over the number handled last year.

Parcels Mail.

The following statement shows the number and value of parcel post packets received and despatched:—

—	Number.	Value.
		£ *s.* *d.*
Received from United Kingdom	1,907	2,457 4 2
„ „ United States	2,257	1,022 11 11
Despatched to United Kingdom	384	287 14 2
„ „ United States	234	77 18 7
Total	4,782	4,445 8 10

Money Orders.

Transactions under this head are shown in the following statement:—

Countries.	Issued.		Drawn.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£ *s.* *d.*		£ *s.* *d.*
United Kingdom	847	1,011 4 5	172	461 14 3
United States	1,029	1,171 8 7	314	1,026 15 9
Total...	1,876	2,182 13 0	486	1,488 10 0

On January 1st, 1905, the issue and payment of British postal orders was inaugurated at the General Post Office,

Nassau, and during the three months the system has been in force postal orders have been issued to the number of 196 with an aggregate value of £81 1*s.* 1*d.*, including poundage, and 30 postal orders have been paid with an aggregate value of £16 15*s.* 9*d.*

The following is a comparative statement showing the quantities of letters and postal packets received and dispatched during the years ended March 31st, 1904, and March 31st, 1905:—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1904.	1905.	Decrease.	Increase.	1904.	1905.	Decrease.	Increase.
Foreign— Letters and post-cards.	127,492	153,370	—	25,878	121,567	134,443	—	12,876
Interinsular— Letters and post-cards.	24,095	26,364	—	2,269	30,240	28,984	1,256	—
Foreign— News and books...	80,422	84,155	—	3,733	13,524	13,721	—	197
Interinsular ..	797	735	62	—	25,067	26,294	—	1,227
Total	232,806	264,624	62	31,880	190,398	203,442	1,256	14,300

The total number of postal packets received and despatched, therefore, shows an increase for 1905, as compared with 1904, of 44,862, viz.:—

Received and despatched in 1904	..	423,204
Received and despatched in 1905	...	468,066

Telegraph Service.

Total interruption of telegraphic communication by the cable between Nassau and Jupiter was reported on 16th October and continued until the 9th of December when the Henley Company completed the repairs and communication was restored.

Up to the date of complete interruption the cable had been in weak condition from the numerous leaks in the shore ends at Jupiter and at Nassau which had existed for a year or more, but no delay or errors had occurred in sending or receiving messages.

The break which caused the final and complete interruption was finally located four miles from the shore at Jupiter, and was caused by the chafing of the cable on the rocky bottom until it parted, no doubt due to abnormal currents during the

hurricane of October 16-17th. The cable was repaired at a cost of £4,359 8*s.* 7*d.*

The Superintendent of Telegraphs points out that previous to this break cable communication had lasted for thirteen years without interruption or mistakes and considers this a very satisfactory record.

A total of 3,311 messages passed over the cable, of which 435 were to and from Great Britain, and 2,330 to and from other countries.

The revenue was £1,220 7*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure £572 16*s.* 2*d.*

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Constabulary.

The strength of this force on 1st January, 1905, was as follows;—

In barracks one officer and 47 rank and file, and out of barracks 16 rank and file.

Nine constables are constantly stationed about the out-islands, being relieved once a year.

The Commandant reports that five men were discharged and five enlisted during the year, the men enlisted having been obtained locally, and said to be of a superior class to those locally enlisted in previous years.

The conduct of the men is reported to have been good, and a marked improvement in shooting was displayed at the annual course.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Extent of Immigration and Emigration.

The engagement of labourers by the agents of certain Steamship Companies at the ports of Long Cay and Inagua shows no sign of slackening; the engagements are all made under written contracts witnessed by a magistrate, and the labourers are protected by special legislation in particulars affecting their welfare as experience demonstrated the need for such protection.

At length, also, it has been found possible, by the offer of a reasonable salary, to obtain the service of a Medical Officer

to be resident at Inagua, and to make monthly visits to Long Cay, and this useful measure will diminish the risk hitherto incurred by the Colony at large of having dangerous diseases introduced by returning labourers and subsequently becoming epidemic.

It is questionable whether this movement of the population in search of work is of any benefit to the interests of the Colony although at a first glance it may seem difficult to dispute the importance for the labouring classes of being able to obtain work at fair wages, but there are adverse considerations, such as the introduction of types of malarial fever, unknown before in these islands, and more severe than the indigenous types, and the introduction of criminal classes from Hayti who have to be kept in prison at Nassau, and several others too long to mention which could be adduced to prove an opposite conclusion.

Moreover, these islands are not over-populated, and by the same hard work which the labourers have to give on board ship, and working on the mainland of the Gulf, they could make as much at home with greater ease and less risk.

The following are the tabular returns and special reports furnished by the Magistrates of Long Cay and Inagua, respectively:—

RETURN of the NUMBERS of LABOURERS ENGAGED at the PORT of LONG CAY during the Year 1904, and of the NUMBERS BROUGHT BACK after EXPIRY of ENGAGEMENT.

Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiry of engagement.	
	To work on board ship.	To work on docks or railways on mainland.		From working on board ship.	From dock or railway work on mainland.
66	1,534	280	65	1,489	137

The Resident Justice of the district makes the following remarks:—

The Hamburg-American Line (formerly Atlas Steamship Company) has regularly employed labourers from this island

for deck service in discharging and loading cargo at Jamaican and Central American ports; their rates of pay are two shillings a day, and fivepence an hour overtime, the foreman on each ship receiving five dollars at the termination of the voyage.

The Panama Railroad Company of New York are also employers of labour from this island, the wages paid by them being 15 dollars per month and fivepence an hour overtime.

Small bodies of men are also engaged by the Santa Marta Railway Company of Santa Marta, Panama, at the same rates of wages as above.

RETURN of the NUMBERS of LABOURERS ENGAGED at the PORT of INAGUA during the Year 1904, and of the NUMBERS of LABOURERS BROUGHT BACK after EXPIRY of ENGAGEMENT.

Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiry of engagement.	
	To work on board ship.	To work on docks or railways on mainland.		From working on board ship as labourers.	From dock or railway work on mainland.
68	2,081	675	69	2,100	724

The Resident Justice of the district adds to the statistical return the following remarks:—

About 1,100 men are now employed in Mexico, Nicaragua, Belize, and Spanish Honduras under contract.

Those in Mexico are employed principally as dock labourers and on work connected with the Mexican Central Railway.

At the other places the work consists mostly of felling trees, clearing bush, and making roads.

The principal lines of steamers taking stevedores are the Hamburg-American Line, Emery Line, Earn Line, and the West Indian Steamship Company.

The rate of wages is 50 cents a day with extra for overtime work. Overtime work usually averages 30 cents a day, making the actual receipts of the labourer about 80 cents a day in all.

The earnings of men working upon the mainland are about the same as those employed on board ships. Settlement is made at Inagua upon the termination of the various contracts.

J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,

Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
444	Basutoland	1903–1904
445	Leeward Islands	,,
446	St. Vincent	,,
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena...	,,
449	Falkland Islands	,,
450	Weihaiwei...	,,
451	Hong Kong	,,
452	Gambia	,,
453	Gibraltar	,,
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
455	British Honduras	,,
456	Seychelles	,,
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ...	,,
458	Straits Settlements	,,
459	Southern Nigeria...	,,
460	Sierra Leone	,,
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905
462	Malta	1904–1905
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	,,
465	Gold Coast	,,
466	Barbados	1904–1905
467	Uganda	,,
468	Somaliland	,,
469	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
470	Lagos	1904

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon...	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Islands	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 496.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1905-6.

(For Report for 1904–5, *see* No. 471.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1906.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34–40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1906.

Cd. 2684-42.] *Price* 2½*d.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. FINANCIAL	4
II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES	8
III. LEGISLATION	21
IV. EDUCATION	22
V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	26
VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS	28
VII. VITAL STATISTICS	30
VIII. POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS	35
IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	37

No. 496.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1904–5, *see* No. 471.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Nassau.

2nd August, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1905-6, together with Mr. Hart Bennett's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

1125 Wt 23907 9/06 D & S 5 25809

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR 1905-6.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The Revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1906, amounted to £77,293 13*s.* 4*d.*, an increase of £6,182 over that of the previous year and of £3,022 over the average annual revenue of the preceding five years.

2. The following table gives the details:—

Heads of Revenue.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	59,066	64,422	5,356	—
2. Port Dues, &c.	431	373	—	58
3. Licences and Internal Revenue.	4,444	4,466	22	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements.	4,086	2,709	—	1,377
5. Post and Telegraph ...	2,553	4,721	2,168	—
6. Rents	300	300	—	—
7. Widows and Orphans ...	119	114	—	5
8. Miscellaneous	5	11	6	—
9. Interest	108	176	68	—
10. Land Sales	—	2	2	—
Totals	71,112	77,294	7,622	1,440
			Net Increase £6,182	

3. A general increase in importations both of alcoholic liquors and other goods accounted for £5,321 13*s.* 4*d.* of the surplus.

The decrease under Fees and increase under Post is a matter of account to a certain extent, it having been decided to credit £300 revenue to stamp duties, which previously appeared under Post Office.

4. The expenditure amounted to £70,256 4*s.* 3*d.*, as against £69,825 14*s.* 10*d.* the previous year, or an increase of £430, and a decrease of £6,234 on the average annual expenditure of the preceding five years.

5. The details of the expenditure are as follows:—

Service.	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Public Debt Charges ...	6,608	6 622	14	—
2. Pensions	3,499	3,217	—	282
3. House of Assembly ...	990	914	—	76
4. Legislative Council ...	72	70	—	2
5. Governor	1,233	1,245	12	—
6. Colonial Secretary ...	1,007	969	—	38
7. Receiver-General ...	2,981	3,055	74	—
8. Judicial	6,527	6,617	90	—
9. Registrar	536	544	8	—
10. Constabulary and Police	5,662	5,602	—	60
11. Fire	428	379	—	49
12. Surveyor-General ...	448	446	—	2
13. Audit	356	379	23	—
14. Post Office	7,359	7,531	172	—
15. Telegraph and Telephone.	1,116	1,278	162	—
16. Ecclesiastical	230	230	—	—
17. Education	4,838	5,100	262	—
18. Public Libraries ...	455	456	1	—
19. Port and Marine ...	1,664	1,933	269	—
20. Medical	729	713	—	16
21. Charitable Institutions	7,946	7,760	—	186
22. Prisons	1,690	1,889	199	—
23. Public Works	10,940	10,495	—	445
24. Miscellaneous	2,167	1,862	—	305
25. Board of Agriculture ...	250	750	500	—
26. Sponge Board	95	200	105	—
Totals	69,826	70,256	1,891	1,461
Surplus funds invested		1,936	Net Increase £430	

6. The changes in expenditure call for no particular comment.

7. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
1901–2	77,780	81,135	— 3,355
1902–3	72,442	74,614	— 2,172
1903–4	71,377	74,038	— 2,661
1904–5	71,112	69,825	+ 1,287
1905–6	77,294	70,256	+ 7,038

Assets and Liabilities.

8. The assets and liabilities of the Colony on 31st March, 1906, are stated to be as follows:—

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Cash in Colonial Chest	5,118	2	0	On Current Account—			
„ in Out Islands and in transit	341	11	5	Salaries	21	6	4
„ with Crown Agents	4,981	10	2	Pensions	459	0	8
„ in transit to Crown Agents	1,025	0	0	Miscellaneous	402	7	0
Surplus Funds invested	4,636	7	0				
Hotel Fund Investments	9,997	4	2				
Cash lent at interest by Crown Agents	1,500	0	0	Savings Bank—Due to depositors (including interest to 30th June, 1905)	23,430	12	10
Savings Bank, Invested to 30th June, 1905, £22,535 15*s.* 3*d.*, costing	22,076	9	5				
„ Income Tax	67	8	6	Deposit by Bank of Nassau for silver coin	3,000	0	0
„ Crown Agents in transit	500	0	0	Excess of assets over liabilities	27,090	0	2
„ Balance Cash	1,820	17	8				
Customs Bonds maturing	2,109	5	1				
Miscellaneous Advances	229	11	7				
Cable Repair Fund—Invested, £5,441 3*s.* 11*d.**	—						
Total	54,403	7	0	Total	54,403	7	0

9. The excess of assets over liabilities was on 31st March, 1906, £27,090 0*s.* 2*d.* as compared with †£19,270 5*s.* 11*d.* on 31st March, 1905.

* To this Fund Colony contributes £700 a year to 1911 inclusive. In 1912 Government and Contractors divide profits.

† The figures given in the annual report for 1904–5 were £16,570 5*s.* 11*d.*, but a sum of £2,700 debentures appears to have been inadvertently omitted from the assets.

10. Public Debt.

Debts.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.	Provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and Enactments by which it is made.	Amount of Original Debt.	Amount Repaid.	Remarks.
£ s. d.		£ s.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
24,500 0 0	Various persons.	4 10 per cent.	In 1885. The failure of the Nassau Public Bank to liquidate certain claims against the Government.	Principal and interest secured from General Revenue and Assets of the Colony. The interest on the total nominal amount of debentures issued under the Act and the Sinking Fund (105 per cent. on original debt) are paid half-yearly to the Crown Agents, and by them used in payment of the interest on outstanding debentures, expenses of advertisements, &c., and the remainder invested by them and applied towards reducing the debt either by purchase in the open market or by annual drawings. 48 and 49 Vict., cap. 24.	35,000 0 0	10,500 0 0	Eight debentures of £100 each were drawn for payment by the Crown Agents. The fifteenth annual drawing took place in 1905.
48,126 0 2	Various persons.	4 0 per cent.	In 1888. For the purpose of redeeming outstanding debentures which had from time to time been issued within these Islands.	By Act 51 Vict., c. 9. Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury. Debentures redeeming 35 years after their respective dates. A Sinking Fund was established by the Act 63 Vict., cap. 7, to which the first contribution was made by a payment of £10,000 from Surplus Funds, and it was enacted that payment from General Revenue of £900 should be annually contributed.	48,126 0 2		Sinking Fund to 31st March, 1906, £17,740 19*s.* 11*d.*
30,000 0 0	Various persons.	4 0 per cent.	January, 1892. Telegraphic communication between the Bahama Islands and parts beyond the limits of the Colony.	£630 per annum paid out of Treasury to Crown Agents towards the Sinking Fund. Interest payable quarterly out of the Public Treasury. 55 Vic., cap. 1.	30,000 0 0		Sinking Fund to 31st March, 1906, £11,176 4*s.* 10*d.*
102,626 0 0							

Currency.

11. In his report for 1903-4 my predecessor gives in brief the history of the currency question resulting in directions being given by the Governor that on and after 1st July, 1905, the American gold dollar should be accepted as four shillings and one penny and the silver dollar as four shillings, as prescribed in the Proclamations of 1853 and 1864.

Although at the time some of the Nassau merchants represented that the reduction was inexpedient, entailing inconvenience and confusion and possibly financial distress and loss, it is satisfactory to report that no such dire results have ensued, and, as stated by the Governor when opening the Legislature on 18th January, 1906,

> "That no serious difficulties have been experienced is "due largely to the spirit in which the bank and those "opposed to the change, immediately they realized that "the time for opposition had passed, loyally accepted the "altered conditions and devoted their energies to a satis-"factory solution of the crisis."

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

12. The total value of the imports during the year 1905 was £291,953, excluding £16,591 specie.

13. The imports were distributed as follows:—

Country.	Amount.
	£
From United Kingdom... ...	62,978*
„ United States	217,054†
„ Canada	3,950
„ British West Indies ...	4,372
„ Foreign Countries other than United States.	3,599

* Excluding £14,000 specie.

† „ £2,591 „

14. The values of the principal articles imported, as compared with the previous year, were:—

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED.

Articles.	Value of Imports, 1904.	Value of Imports, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alcoholic liquors—	£	£	£	£
Ale, cider, porter, &c. ...	1,635	2,014	379	—
Brandy	138	85	—	53
Gin...	2,798	2,025	—	773
Liqueurs and cordials ...	349	582	233	—
Rum	2,370	2,295	—	75
Whiskey	1,812	1,749	—	63
Wines	772	898	126	—
Butter and cheese	7,122	7,677	555	—
Cattle...	2,517	1,966	—	551
Coffee...	1,969	2,171	202	—
Corn, corn meal, and hominy	9,428	13,432	4,004	—
Fertilisers	3,414	1,292	—	2,122
Flour, &c.	31,853	39,034	7,181	—
Gasoline	196	450	254	—
Hay, oats, and bran... ...	3,420	3,798	378	—
Horses	97	364	267	—
Ice	2,699	1,511	—	1,188
Lard	5,377	4,744	—	633
Lumber and shingles ...	8,562	9,321	759	—
Machinery	2,743	6,442	3,699	—
Meat, fresh	2,629	4,046	1,417	—
Meat, salt	13,136	9,479	—	3,657
Oil, kerosene...	4,229	3,427	—	802
Potatoes and onions... ...	1,703	1,512	—	191
Rice	9,711	10,031	320	—
Rope and canvas	18,505	5,846	—	12,659
Soap	1,910	1,757	—	153
Sugar...	10,491	11,160	669	—
Tea	1,020	963	—	57
Tobacco and cigars	5,394	6,304	910	—
Unenumerated—				
Earthenware, glassware, &c.	39,792	41,036	1,244	—
Hardware, tinware, &c. ...	6,214	12,905	6,691	—
Preserved meats, fish, etc.	17,690	16,354	—	1,336
Textile fabrics	47,778	52,488	4,710	—
All other articles	14,018	12,795	—	1,223
Totals ... £	283,491	291,953	33,998	25,536
Specie...	13,750	16,591	2,841	—
	297,241	308,544	36,839	25,536

15. The imports were derived from the following countries:—

Class.	United Kingdom.	United States of America.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, food, drinks, and narcotics.	23,034	112,349	11,724	147,107
2. Raw Materials :—				
Textile and metal ...	—	—	—	—
Other	—	12,347	69	12,416
3. Manufactured Articles :—				
Textile	26,930	31,528	—	58,458
Metal	3,232	18,746	—	21,978
Other	9,782	42,084	128	51,994
4. Coin	14,000	2,591	—	16,591
Totals	76,978	219,645	11,921	308,544
Totals in 1904 ...	62,935	219,937	14,369	297,241

16. The increase in the imports from the United Kingdom appears to be mainly due to the importation of £14,000 specie, as against only £1,042 in 1904.

17. Importations from Canada were valued at £3,950, as against £2,459 in 1904. They consist of butter, cheese, flour, salt meat, soap, &c.

18. Importations from British West Indies (Jamaica) were £4,372 in 1905, and £5,746 in 1904.

19. It will be noticed that there was an increase in the value of corn of over £4,004, and of flour of over £7,000. In 1905 there was a failure of provision crops in certain of the islands, and this, with the increased number of persons engaged in the sisal industry and the probable lessening thereby of the number of people cultivating ground provisions, may well account for the increase.

20. A satisfactory increase of £3,700 in the value of machinery imported is due to the operations of a lumber factory at Abaco.

21. A decrease in the value of rope and canvas imported of so large a sum as £12,000 appears to be unaccountable. In 1903 the figures were much the same as they were last year, and it appears probable that there was some mistake in the figures given for 1904.

22. Articles such as earthenware, hardware, preserved meats, &c. cover in value some £135,000, or nearly half the value of the total imports of the Colony. It is to be hoped that the next tariff may be prepared so as to enable a more detailed classification to be made. At present articles are too much grouped under general terms. I may say, however, that I doubt whether an improvement can be expected in this direction unless the services of a capable statistical clerk are added to the Customs Department.

23. The total exports were valued at £222,905, or £27,969 more than in 1904. £204,293 represents the produce of the Colony.

24. The following table gives the particulars of the main exports of Colonial produce:—

Article.	Exports, 1904.		Exports, 1905.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Sponge ... ... lbs.	1,307,958	105,718	1,486,128	113,753
Pineapples ... ... dozen.	228,608	22,616	197,546	19,776
Grape fruit ... No.	231,096	1,374	564,061	2,397
Bahamas hemp ... lb.	2,218,825	29,557	3,040,045	37,522
Turtle shell ... lb.	8,796	8,634	7,923	8,527
Oranges ... ... No.	272,955	338	1,706,318	1,388
Shells (conch) ... No.	673,716	2,050	827,491	2,836
Bark ... ... lb.	132,839	2,214	4,933	1,272
Hardwood ... ... tons.	361	668	614	798
Pineapples, preserved cases.	65,159	13,033	64,606	11,713
Cotton ... ... lb.	8,571	179	6,676	119
Salt ... ... bushels.	54,967	1,145	40,037	546

25. It will be seen that there was a satisfactory increase in the exports of sponge and Bahama hemp or sisal fibre.

26. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	1904.	1905.
	£	£
United Kingdom	16,815	12,520
Canada	264	2,568
Other British Colonies	513	438
United States	128,062	141,149
Other Foreign Countries	44,242	47,623
Total	189,860	204,293

27. The cause of the decreased export trade to the United Kingdom was a decrease in the value of sponge amounting to £2,864, and of turtle shell amounting to £2,454.

28. It is satisfactory to note an increase of exports to Canada, consisting mainly of fruit and preserved pine-apples.

29. Increases of £6,340 value of sisal and £7,297 of sponge account for the increased export trade to the United States.

30. I subjoin a return of the value of imports and exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1901-2°	408,648	222,178	630,826
1902	306,098	207,601	513,699
1903	294,590	210,493	505,083
1904	297,241	194,936	492,177
1905	308,544	222,905	531,449

° These figures are for a period of 15 months.

31. It is unfortunate that for some purposes this Colony adopts the financial year ending 31st March and for others the calendar year ending 31st December, rendering any comparison between the value of articles imported and the amount paid for duty useless, since the former are for the calendar and the latter for the financial year.

(B.) Mines and Quarries, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

Mines.

32. There are no mines in the Colony. Lime-stone, used for building purposes, is found in most of the large islands, valued at the quarry at 10*d.* per cubic foot.

Pineapple Canning Factories.

33. The J. S. Johnson Co. factory in Nassau canned 51,302 cases, containing 162,118 dozen pine-apples, and employed some 350 hands weekly. This is an increase of some 9,000 dozen fruit over the previous year.

There are three factories at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, one of which was only in operation for 42 days; 22,000 cases were canned, containing 84,000 dozen pine-apples. Some 180 hands are employed. The export shows a decrease of 25,000 dozen fruit, as compared with 1904.

Sisal Factories.

34. There were five factories in New Providence. The J. S. Johnson Co. have two factories, with two cleaning machines. 2,600 acres are planted, and the output was about 68 tons.

The Bahamas Fibre Co. have three factories and about 1,250 acres. One Todd and one Villamor machine are in use, and the output was about 79 tons.

The increased production over 1904 was respectively about 22 and 23 tons.

At San Salvador there are two factories with three cleaning machines, which, however, were not in operation.

At Little Abaco the Sisal Fibre Co. has two cleaning machines and 13 miles of railroad. Output, 270 tons—an increase of 110 tons.

Messrs. R. H. Sawyer & Co. have a factory at Abaco, and exported 25½ tons—a decrease of 8 tons. The plantation is nearly exhausted.

There are also two factories at Inagua, which produced about 28 tons, as against 62 in 1904.

Sponging.

35. Following up the policy described in my predecessor's report for 1904-5, the Sponge Board closed on the 1st April, 1905, the fishing grounds in the Bight of Abaco and Deadman's Cay, Long Island. Watchmen were appointed to guard the closed areas, and there was no widespread attempt to violate the regulations. The Board is led to believe that some varieties of sponges grow more rapidly than others, and would wish some scientific investigation to be made into this matter and other questions affecting the industry, and enquiries are now being made with a view to secure the services of an expert.

The Board state that no poaching by foreign fishermen has recently been reported, but from rumours that have reached the Board it is feared that they may at any moment re-appear, and the Board consequently urge that an armed vessel of some description should be provided for the protection of the industry.

It is estimated that about 206 schooners and 286 sloops, with an aggregate tonnage of 5,185, are engaged in the sponging trade. Attached to these vessels are 2,463 open boats, and about 5,299 men and boys are employed.

180,000 more pounds of sponge were exported than in 1904, with an increase in value of £8,000.

Turtling.

36. During the year the Sponge and Fisheries Board framed rules to prevent the destruction of small turtle, but it was found that their legal powers in this respect were insufficient, and it is a matter for consideration whether legislation should not be instituted to deal with the matter, as well as with the enormous destruction of conchs, lobsters, and small fish that is now carried on.

Experiments in rearing young turtle are being tried at Inagua by Messrs. F. H. Boucher and E. P. West, and I subjoin an extract from the Resident Justice's annual report explaining the operations:—

> "Two creeks have been leased from the Crown by Messrs. F. H. Boucher and E. P. West, and fenced across their mouths for the purpose of turtle raising. Many thousands of young turtle were hatched and placed in these creeks, which cover large areas and contain food for an almost unlimited number of both hawksbill and green turtle. Every effort is being made to give the industry a fair trial. A large amount of preliminary work was in each case absolutely necessary, and involved a considerable expenditure of both time and money. The principal difficulties, however, have now been surmounted, and the business looks promising. This is not altogether a new industry, as turtle raising has been successfully carried on for many years at Eleuthera. The main difference lies in the method in which stock is obtained. At Eleuthera young turtle are caught and placed in the ponds, where they remain until grown to a marketable size. The supply of turtles by this process is, of course, extremely limited. The Inagua plan is more extensive. Boats are despatched along the shores, and turtle eggs are carefully gathered in large numbers and brought to the creeks, where tubs and boxes of sand are awaiting them. Great care is taken in placing them in tubs, and an experienced person will lose only a small percentage of the eggs. Quite 75 per cent. are successfully hatched. The care of very young turtles is still not far removed from the experimental stage. It is feared that hitherto they have been turned loose to shift for themselves before they were quite equal to the task, and that many have become food for the large numbers of voracious fish that abound in the creeks. Various plans have been adopted by the proprietors to meet this difficulty. They are now confident, however, that it has been solved, and that their system of nurseries and feeding will prove sufficient for all practical purposes."

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

37. The Agricultural Board, which came into existence in May, 1904, commenced active operations in the year under review. They were fortunate in securing the services as Curator of Mr. W. M. Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent of Hope Gardens, Jamaica.

38. A suitable piece of land was leased on easy terms as a site for a Botanical and Experimental Station, and opened on 1st August, 1905. Nearly five acres have been cleared, and half of this is already under cultivation, and the work done is described by the Curator as follows:—

"4. *Cotton.*—One acre of Sea Island cotton was planted in September and October, 1905, in three plots, for the purpose of ascertaining the best time for planting, yield under different conditions of soil, &c. The plants have grown remarkably well, and have the appearance (notwithstanding the heavy rains in December) of being a good crop. The plants grew best in rich heavy soil, but the best yield of cotton appears to be from plants grown in light soil.

"5. *Cassava.*—Half an acre of cassava from cuttings collected in Eleuthera and Hog Island has been planted to test the yield of tubers and starch per acre, and in order to ascertain when to lift to get the best results and the best varieties suitable to our climatic conditions. Such varieties will then be distributed to the out-islands.

"6. *Tobacco.*—For the purpose of testing the possibility of producing in the Bahamas a leaf equal to that imported for cigar manufacture, seed of Havana tobacco was procured from Jamaica, seed sown, and plants were planted out in November and December, 1905, in a plot of land about a quarter of an acre. The results of the experiment to date show that a very fine grade of leaf can be produced. To insure correct curing, a curing house is in course of erection. The crop is now being cut for curing purposes, when the quality and aroma of the leaf for commercial purposes will be determined.

"7. *Pine-apples.*—Six plots of pine-apples, each 1-112th of an acre, are planted to test the result of different manurial experiments. Although being late in planting (end of October) and the suckers and slips not all of the best quality, they have the appearance of doing well. Further plantings will be made at the proper planting season.

"8. *Onions.*—A plot of 1-20th of an acre was planted on October 19th, 1905, from seed sown on September 7th, 1905, to test the yield and value of this industry per acre.

So far the crop is successful, and proves that onions can be grown on a commercial scale for profit. As soon as the crop is harvested, the onions will be weighed and the results made known.

"9. *Vanilla.*—A vanillery is being formed by planting one-eighth of an acre with cuttings of Jatropha curcas at distances of six feet in the rows, which are six feet apart. These are to act as supports for the vanilla vines; arrangements are made for sufficient vanilla cuttings from Jamaica.

"10. *Nursery.*—A small area, one-eighth of an acre, has been laid out as a nursery, shade trees (Moringa) planted, for raising economic products for distribution in the out islands."

39. A considerable number of leaflets were printed and distributed gratis to the out-islands on sisal cultivation, cotton cultivation, insects and diseases, onions, and potatoes, and the Board now publish a monthly bulletin at a small charge.

40. The Curator visited some of the out-islands, and reports very highly of the agricultural potentialities of many of them. He concludes his report by stating that the prospects for agriculture are decidedly encouraging, but that progress will be slow, for it is difficult to induce the native cultivator to adopt new and better methods of cultivation.

41. An agricultural exhibition was held at Exuma, with 303 exhibits. Great interest was shown, and the Resident Justice is trying if he can raise sufficient funds to hold another and a larger one. It is in contemplation to hold an exhibition in Nassau next year.

Sisal.

42. The estimated acreage of land under cultivation is put at 20,412, but too much reliance must not be placed on these figures. The output exceeds that of previous years, the fibre is better cleaned, and the acreage under cultivation is increasing, especially in the out-islands.

Some of the local schooners and boats now use home-made sisal ropes and hawsers.

There was a large increase in export over 1904, amounting to 366 tons in quantity, and £7,965 value.

Much harm is done in many places by the cutting of immature fibre, and insufficient cleaning.

Salt.

43. At Ragged Island there was a fair season: 65,000 bushels were raked.

At Rum Cay this is practically a dead industry; only 5,000 bushels were raked, but not one cargo shipped, and the prospects of selling this year's crop are particularly dull.

At Inagua the Resident Justice reports that this industry shows no sign of progress. A few persons continue to work the ponds in a spasmodic manner. Many thousands of bushels were raked and heaped last year, but no buyers came for several months. In the meantime heavy rains destroyed heap after heap, and ultimately a few thousand bushels were sold at prices barely sufficient to cover the cost of shipment.

Pineapples.

44. The Resident Justice at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, reports that this industry is rapidly declining owing to poor soil, the red spider, and the want of a new stock of plants and the use of unsuitable fertilizers.

The Curator considers that the importation of fresh stock and the better selection of stock for planting purposes would materially help to revive the industry, and the Board of Agriculture will no doubt make suggestions towards this end.

There was a decrease in amount of over 31,000 dozen, and in value of over £2,800, of pine-apples exported from the Colony as compared with 1904.

The exports of preserved pine-apple were 64,606 cases, as compared with 65,159 cases in 1904, valued at £11,713 and £13,033 respectively.

The Curator states that large quantities are shipped in bulk in a green state to America, often arriving in bad condition and causing a heavy loss to shippers, and he is of opinion that all fruit should be canned here instead of being shipped in a green state.

Grape-Fruit.

45. 564,061 were exported, as against 231,096 in 1904, with values respectively of £2,397 and £1,374.

The Curator is satisfied that grape-fruit can be grown successfully in the Bahamas. It is a question of right varieties, right cultivation, and right fertilizing. Many of the Bahamian varieties are worthless.

The Board of Agriculture is considering this question, and the means of providing a profitable market for this fruit and for oranges.

46. The Curator advocates the establishment of a cassava factory in Nassau, and the cultivation of cotton, tobacco, sweet potatoes, and rubber.

Lumber.

47. The Sisal Cleaning Co. have put up a steam saw, and much of the pine on their estate on Andros Island is sawn into lumber and shingles. Many pine trees are destroyed through the reckless use of fire.

At Abaco, where the Government have granted a concession, extensive operations have been undertaken. The present mill can saw 27,000 feet per diem, and another is to be put up sawing 150,000. Two cargoes were shipped to Nassau during the year, and gave great satisfaction. Dealers in America who have received samples speak very highly of them. Although the land is hilly and uneven, the logs are hauled at little expense by means of a huge steam derrick, and a profit would be realised even if sold much below Jacksonville prices. The manufacture of shingles has also begun.

(D.) Land Grants.

48. The total number of acres granted is put at 351,975 acres, and the total number remaining ungranted at 1,767,362.

The total number of acres of Crown land sold in 1905 was 86.

(E.) Shipping.

49. The number and tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year 1905, as compared with 1904, are as follows:—

—	1904.				1905.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British West Indies	51	2,074	56	1,202	53	1,811	65	1,739
Cuba	10	517	11	530	14	1,302	4	203
Hayti	39	442	29	399	24	292	15	196
Central America ...	1	90	2	168	1	133	3	336
Spanish West Indies	2	324	3	254	1	133	1	74
Mexico	—	—	1	214	—	—	1	602
Nova Scotia ...	—	—	3	423	1	108	2	304
South America ...	1	363	1	363	—	—	1	720
United Kingdom ...	2	459	—	—	1	395	—	—
U.S. America ...	118	13,155	120	14,278	112	13,114	111	12,049
Totals ...	224	17,424	226	17,831	207	17,288	203	16,223

50. The following is a similar return for steam vessels:—

—	1904.				1905.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	2	7,520	—	—	—	—	—	—
U.S. America ...	185	326,873	151	244,250	200	390,827	154	246,367
British West Indies	13	21,432	30	85,389	13	20,986	63	174,063
South America ...	18	40,138	11	28,750	13	30,255	9	20,288
Hayti	13	19,155	51	80,618	22	30,890	50	72,456
Cuba	27	56,875	19	36,135	32	59,204	36	67,445
Mexico	5	9,547	18	33,746	5	9,705	10	17,459
Danish West Indies	1	1,681	—	—	1	2,389	—	—
British Honduras ...	4	8,024	3	6,330	1	2,389	4	8,532
U. S. Colombia ...	19	32,380	—	—	30	46,977	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	7	12,826	—	—
Portugal	—	—	—	—	1	1,103	—	—
Porto Rico	—	—	—	—	1	1,123	—	—
Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,165
Central America ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,482
Totals ...	287	523,625	286	521,801	326	608,673	328	609,195

51. The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year 1905, distinguishing nationalities, are given in the following return:—

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	152	8,997	148	7,862	34	65,848	35	66,158
American	37	7,293	39	7,438	114	195,734	115	195,946
Italian	1	395	1	395	—	—	—	—
Cuban	3	105	1	30	—	—	—	—
Spanish	3	340	3	340	—	—	—	—
Haytian	10	153	10	153	—	—	—	—
Dominican ...	1	5	1	5	—	—	—	—
German	—	—	—	—	162	333,734	162	333,734
Norwegian ...	—	—	—	—	12	10,949	12	10,949
Danish	—	—	—	—	4	2,368	4	2,368
Totals ...	207	17,288	203	16,223	326	608,673	328	609,195

52. As compared with 1904, seven fewer British steam vessels entered and eight fewer cleared, with tonnage respectively of 26,085 and 23,951.

Three more American steam vessels entered and four more cleared with tonnage of 7,273 and 7,485 respectively.

Thirty-six more German steam vessels entered and cleared, with tonnage of 94,407 each way.

53. A large number of these steamers, as in previous years, called at Inagua and Long Cay for the sole purpose of embarking and landing labourers for Mexico, Central America and other places. Details are given under Head X., General Observations.

54. The Elder and Fyffes Line, of Manchester, has established an agency at Inagua, and will despatch ships weekly between Manchester and Costa Rica, calling at Inagua for labourers. Unfortunately the company does not see its way to allow their steamers to call at Nassau.

55. The following is a statement of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past four years:—

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1902	* 25	555
1903	14	557
1904	18	299
1905	5	77

56. The following is a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years:—

—	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.				Totals.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	Vessels	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1901-2* ..	349	33,390	347	32,242	408	614,659	407	613,389	1,511	1,293,680
1902 ..	270	22,521	267	22,155	296	499,514	297	500,393	1,130	1,044,588
1903 ..	242	19,796	239	19,205	287	542,325	288	542,561	1,056	1,023,887
1904 ..	224	17,424	226	17,831	287	523,625	286	521,801	1,023	1,080,681
1905 ..	207	17,288	203	16,223	326	604,673	328	609,195	1,064	1,251,379

* These figures are for the 15 months ended 31st March, 1902.

III.—LEGISLATION.

57. Twenty-four Acts were passed by the Legislature and assented to by the Governor.

The Attorney-General, who is an elected member of the House of Assembly and the Leader of the House, supplies the following notes on the chief measures enacted:—

(1.) *Asylum.*

This Act replaces a similar Act passed in the year 1904. Its main object is to substitute for the present Resident Surgeon Superintendent of the New Providence Asylum (a miscellaneous institution comprising a hospital, poorhouse, lunatic wards and a lazaretto), a lay superintendent charged with the general management of the institution, the medical staff being set free for purely professional duties.

(2.) *Trade Marks.*

This Act applies to the Colony the Trade Marks Act, 1905, and embodies a number of sections for the protection of Trade Marks, taken from the Merchandise Marks Act, 1897.

(3.) *Medical Practitioners.*

This Act establishes a Register of Medical Practitioners, which should prove of great importance in checking the frauds now practised on a credulous public by charlatans and impostors.

(4.) *Manufactories.*

This Act replaces an old Act designed to encourage manufactories by the remission of duties on building materials, plant, and raw material of the industry.

(5.) *Telephones.*

This Act establishes a telephone system in the island of New Providence. The telephone authority is the Governor in Council.

(6.) *Agriculture.*

This Act puts on an improved basis the agricultural experiment initiated in 1904. It enlarges the powers of the Board, increases their endowment, and extends the term of the experiment.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary.

58. As explained by my predecessor in his Report for 1904-5, the private and denominational schools do not come within the purview of the Board of Education, and the following statistics do not therefore include them.

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Schools Aided by Grant of Material only.				Total.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.
1904	45	7,393	6,226	4,533	11	1,105	1,017	585	4	208	180	150	60	8,706	7,423	5,268
1905	44	7,204	6,089	4,509	12	1,077	928	571	5	253	232	186	61	8,534	7,249	5,266

59. The teaching staff under the Board was as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.
Principal teachers	44	44
Assistant teachers	3	6
Pupil teachers	5	6
Monitors...	107	112
Sewing teachers...	5	7
Students in training	2	3
Employed in aided schools ...	13	13
Total	179	191

60. The Inspector of Schools reports that the total average attendance for all the Board schools gives 102 for each, the average pay of the principal being but £64, and that, were it possible to assemble the pupils in larger and fewer schools, the service could be rendered more attractive by increasing the salaries without increasing the expenditure, or even with a considerable saving, but the scattered geographical distribution of the people, together with local difficulties of inter-communication, constitutes a very great obstacle to the efficient education of the children.

61. A new schoolhouse at Rokers Point, Exuma, was built, a much-needed addition to Victoria Schoolhouse, in Nassau, was put in hand, and provision was made for the building of two more schoolhouses.

The average cost per child was 19*s.* 11*d.*, as against 19*s.* 1¾*d.* in 1904, and £1 12*s.* 9*d.* in 1884.

62. The following is a list of the schools under the superintendence of the Board. B. signifies Board school, G. grant-in-aid school, M. schools aided by material only:—

District.	Schools.
New Providence, Nassau	Boys Central (B). Girls Eastern (B). Girls Western (B). Infants Western (B). Sandilands (B). Victoria (B)
Abaco and Cays ...	Cherokee Sound (B). Great Guana Cay (G). Green Turtle Cay (B). Hope Town (B). Marsh Harbour (B). Old Place (B). Sandy Point (M).
Acklin's Island ...	Delectable (M). Pompey Bay (M). Snug Corner (G). Spring Point (B).
Andros	Calabash Bay (B). Kemp's Bay (G). Long Bay Cays (B). Mangrove Cay (B). Mastic Point (B). Nicolls Town (B). Stanyard Creek (B).
Biminis	Alice Town (B).
Cat Island	Arthur's Town (B). Bight (B). Bluff (G). Cove (M). Devil's Point (G). Old Bight (G). Port Howe (B). Tea Bay (M).
Crooked Island ...	Colonel Hill (G). True Blue (G).
Eleuthera and Cays ...	Bluff (B). Bogue (B). Current (B). Current Island (G). Gregory Town (B). Governor's Harbour (B). Harbour Island (B).

List of Schools under Superintendence of the Board—cont.

District.	Schools.
Eleuthera and Cays—(*cont*)	Hatchet Bay (B). Millars (G). Palmetto Point (B). Rock Sound (B). Savannah Sound (B). Spanish Wells (B). Tarpum Bay (B). Wemyss Bight (B).
Exuma and Cays ...	Farmers Cay (G). George Town (B). Steventon (G).
Grand Bahama	Eight Mile Rock (B).
Inagua	At Matthew Town (B).
Long Island	Deadman's Cay (B). Simms (B).
Long Cay (Fortune Island) ...	Long Cay (B).
Ragged Island	Ragged Island (B).
Rum Cay	Rum Cay (B).
Watling's Island	Watlings (B).

63. The schools were injuriously affected by unusually heavy and continuous rainfalls and by prevalent fevers.

64. In New Providence 186 cases were reported under the compulsory attendance section of the Education Act, four were not tried, 61 dismissed, 25 orders made, 79 fined, 10 truants.

65. In the out-islands 772 cases were reported, 249 not tried, 193 dismissed, 138 orders made, 191 fined, 2 truants.

66. The Inspector considers that in almost every place where the application of the compulsory attendance section has been fairly tried, good results have followed.

67. The Curator of the Botanic Station has been good enough to offer to give a course of teaching in the principles of agriculture to any teachers who may care to avail themselves of it during the summer vacation, and it is hoped that many teachers will embrace this opportunity.

68. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board of Education there were 29 maintained by the Church of England, five of which are in New Providence. Total roll, 1692;

average roll, 943. In 1904 there were 32 such schools, with a total roll of 2,021, and an average roll of 960.

69. There were also three Roman Catholic schools (two in Nassau, one in Andros); total roll, 491; and four private schools with a total roll of 289.

70. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

—	1904.			1905.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools	3,288	2,938	6,226	3,189	2,900	6,089
Aided Private Schools ...	530	487	1,017	493	435	928
Church of England ...	998	1,024	2,022	806	886	1,692
Roman Catholic... ...	196	310	506	189	302	491
Private Schools	113	155	268	135	154	289
Total	5,125	4,914	10,039	4,812	4,677	9,489

(B.) Secondary Education.

71. There is no State provision for secondary education at present.

72. Private organizations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction, as follows:—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Queen's College	19	16	35
Kindergarten	15	11	26
St. Hilda's School...	—	19	19
Nassau Grammar	20	—	20
St. Francis Xavier Academy	—	36	36
Total	54	82	136
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera) ...	6	13	19
Total	60	95	155

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A). Hospitals. (B.) Asylums. (C.) Poorhouse.

73. These institutions are all included under the head of the New Providence Asylum.

74. The Resident Surgeon Superintendent states that the numbers of inmates on 1st January, 1905, were:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	46	33	79
Victoria Infirmary	24	18	42
Lunatic Asylum	24	19	43
Leper Hospital	6	1	7
	100	71	171

75. 727 patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 898, of whom 100 were discharged not improved, 142 relieved, 286 recovered, and 114 died.

76. At the close of the year 146 remained, and were distributed as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	40	29	69
Victoria Infirmary	16	17	33
Lunatic Asylum	20	17	37
Leper Hospital	6	1	7
	82	64	146

77. The Assistant Surgeon visited 786 new cases at their homes, and treated at the dispensary 4,487.

78. The number of prescriptions dispensed at the public dispensary was:—

Dispensary patients	8,997
Asylum	7,518
Gaol and police	1,285
Public Physician	1,555
Total ...	19,355

an increase of 925 over the preceding year.

79. The Resident Surgeon Superintendent speaks very highly of the admirable organization and discipline which Miss Poole, the matron, has instituted among the native nurses.

80. The affairs of the Institution are administered by a Board of Commissioners (including two ladies), to whom the Legislature votes the sum of £6,000 annually.

81. During the last session of the Legislature a new Asylum Act was passed, which, if sanctioned, will effect important alterations and (it is hoped) improvements, the principal of which will be the appointment of a lay superintendent residing on the premises, the Resident Surgeon being thus relieved, as he should be, of the non-professional duties he has hitherto been required to perform.

(E.) Savings Bank.

82. The Postmaster, reporting on the transactions of the Post Office Savings Bank for the year ended 30th June, 1905, gives the following information:—

——	Number.	Amount.
		£
Deposits	3,751	10,447
Withdrawals	2,216	7,272

83. In 1903-4 the figures were:—

——	Number.	Amount.
		£
Deposits	3,217	7,884
Withdrawals	2,230	7,846

84. The number of depositors on 30th June, 1905, was 1,864; on 30th June, 1904, 1,700.

85. The balance due to depositors on 30th June, 1905, was £23,431, as against £19,788 on 30th June, 1904.

86. The assets and liabilities are given as follows:—

Years.	Assets.	Excess of Assets over Liabilities.
	£	£
1903–4	20,621	834
1904–5	24,465	1,034

87. The average amount to the credit of each account on 30th June, 1905, was £12 11*s.* 5*d.*

88. In the first year of its establishment (1886) there were 344 depositors, £3,055 deposits, and £379 withdrawals.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

89. The Commandant reports that the number of persons prosecuted by the police in New Providence was 1,091, of whom 567 were reported and 524 arrested. In 1904 the number was 1,158.

90. There were prosecuted:—

213 cases of profane language in public,
78 cases of drunkenness in public,
98 cases of fighting in public,
88 cases of assault,
44 cases of breach of Street Traffic Acts,
31 cases of breach of Sponge Acts, and
211 cases of breach of Dog Acts.

91. The strength of the force on 1st January, 1906, was:—

In barracks, officers	1
„ rank and file	47
Out of barracks	15
At out-islands	10
Local constables, New Providence ...	2
Local constables, out-islands	27
Board of Education constables	1
Total ...	103

92. There were 18 outbreaks of fire in Nassau, of which 11 are known or believed to be accidental, and in three cases incendiarism was suspected.

93. Property to the value of £14,863 was endangered, the insurance on which amounted to £12,630. The owners of destroyed property give the value as £914, of which £420 was not covered by insurance.

(B.) Prisons.

94. The Inspector of Prisons reports that the following punishments were inflicted during 1905:—

Solitary confinement	35
Lower diet	46
Crank	30
Forfeiture of marks	2
Whipping (juveniles)	3
Total ...	116

This is far less than in the previous year, although the number of prisoners was greater.

95. There were no escapes.

96. The sanitary condition of the prison has been very good. There were two deaths.

97. The daily average in the prison last year was 68·14, as against 54·43 in 1904. The total number of persons committed for purposes of penal imprisonment was 240, of whom 188 were for short sentences of three months or less; 142 were men, 88 women, and 10 juveniles, as against 134, 86, and 22 respectively, the previous year.

98. The daily average on the sick list was 1·99, and there were 22 admissions to hospital.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

99. The following is a comparative table of the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	2,827	3,006	2,849	3,016
Number of summary convictions :				
(1) For offences against the person	290	278	277	286
(2) For prædial larceny	35	50	49	40
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	101	119	102	107
(4) For other offences	1,756	1,717	1,922	1,723
Number of convictions in the Superior Court :				
(1) For offences against the person	10	15	11	17
(2) For prædial larceny	1	—	—	—
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny	16	19	13	5
(4) For other offences	6	2	4	5
Number of persons acquitted :				
(1) In Inferior Court	385	481	385	545
(2) In Superior Court	20	8	27	10

100. In the Magistrates' Courts the cases were disposed of as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence	297
Dismissed on the merits	545
Summarily convicted	2,156
Committed for trial	44

101. The punishments inflicted for the summary convictions were:—

Fines	1,490
Imprisonment in lieu of fines	145
Peremptory imprisonment	191
Whipping	47
Bound over	277

102. In the Superior Court there were 27 convictions and 10 acquittals:—

Offences against the person	17
Offences against property	5
Other offences	5

103. The offences against the person included two cases of murder and one of manslaughter. In one case the death sentence was commuted by the Governor.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

104. The population by the Census of 1901 was 53,735.
Estimated population on 31st December, 1905, 58,175.
Births in 1905, 2,200; birth-rate, 40·9.
Deaths in 1905, 1,171; death-rate, 21·7.
Marriages, 429.

No death certificates are required in the Colony; statistics of births and deaths are gathered by local sub-registrars, and, in the opinion of the Medical Inspector, the figures given probably underestimate the true number.

105. The area and population, by the Census of 1901, of the various Islands, are given below:—

District.	Area in Square Miles.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Abaco and Cays	776	1,568	1,746	3,314
Acklin's Island	120	704	861	1,565
Andros Island	1,600	3,192	3,155	6,347
Berry Islands	14	210	173	383
Bimmis	8½	263	282	545
Cays Sal and Lobos	7	9	9	18
Crooked Island	76	731	866	1,597
Eleuthera	164	4,159	4,574	8,733
Exuma and Cays	100	1,373	1,713	3,086
Grand Bahama	430	869	911	1,780
Harbour Island	1½	573	659	1,232
Inagua	560	748	705	1,453
Long Cay	8	257	242	499
Long Island	130	1,610	1,952	3,562
Mayaguana	96	161	174	335
New Providence	58	5,492	7,042	12,534
Ragged Island and Cays ...	5	192	173	365
Ruma Cay	29	235	294	529
San Salvador...	160	2,090	2,568	4,658
Spanish Wells	½	271	263	534
Watling's Island	60	293	374	667
Total	4,403½	25,000	28,735	53,735

(B.) Public Health.

106. The Medical Inspector reports that the health of the Island of New Providence throughout the year was good. Malarial fevers of a more than usual severe type prevailed, but the mortality was not great. Typhoid fever appeared, but did not spread. Influenza was more or less endemic.

107. 166 successful vaccinations were performed in New Providence, and 1,189 in the out-islands.

108. The quarantine authority with general powers and rules was vested in the Board of Health under the Quarantine Act, 1905.

109. At Long Cay, Fortune Island, the general health was poor—malarial, intermittent, and other fevers having prevailed. At Inagua it was fairly good. The Public physician at the latter place is required to visit the former once a quarter. It is desirable that there should be a doctor at each place, as contract labourers constantly returning from Hayti, Central America, &c., may at any time bring with them some malignant disease.

At Harbour Island there was more intermittent fever than usual, one case of typhoid, and some cases of phthisis. At Long Island the public health was poor—there were several deaths from aggravated dysentery and a good deal of non-malignant fever. At Watling's Island malarial fever was very prevalent. In the other Islands, health is reported to have been generally good.

(C.) Sanitation.

110. The Medical Inspector reports that the general sanitation of the Island of New Providence has been good. The water-supply from springs and cisterns was abundant and the drainage good.

111. A number of seizures of diseased and unwholesome articles of food were made.

112. Frequent inspections of the city of Nassau and suburbs were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

(L.) Climate.

113. The rainfall during the year amounted to 54·64 inches, being more by 4·12 inches than in 1904.

114. The following are the meteorological statistics:—

Station, Nassau, Bahamas. λ=77·21 W. Φ=25·5 N. H=25 feet.

Months.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.										Tension of Vapour.				Relative Humidity.			
		8 a.m.	3 p.m.	9	Mean.	Means of		Absolute Min. and Max.				7	1	9	Mean.	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	9	Mean.
						Min.	Max.	Min.	Date.	Max.	Date.								
January ...	30·16	69·5	71·3		70·4	64·1	73	51·5	26th & 27th	80	14th					66	74		70
February ...	30·13	71·6	75		73·3	68·3	74·4	60·5	25th	82	10th					81	68		74·5
March... ...	30·08	74·2	77·8		76	69·6	79·9	63	2nd	88·5	20th					76·2	70·5		73·5
April	30·03	75·3	77·9		76·6	69·3	80·7	64	9th	86	30th					74·6	75·4		71
May	30·05	80·3	83·8		82	78	88	72	6th & 17th	90	27th & 30th					75	80		77·5
June	30·02	81·2	84·3		82·7	74·6	89·5	72	4th	92·5	28th					76	76		76
July	30·09	82·2	85·6		83·9	75·2	88·4	70	6th	92·5	3rd					80	88		84
August ..	30·04	83·5	86		84·7	76·1	90·2	71·5	15th & 29th	92	21st & 29th					78	73		75·5
September ...	30·00	82·6	84·2		83·3	75·4	88·8	70·5	25th	91·5	1st, 2nd, & 17th					80	73		76·5
October ...	30·01	80·6	81·8		81·2	75·6	85·9	72·5	31st	89·5	29th					79	80		79·5
November ...	30·05	76·8	79		77·9	73·5	83·5	68	26th	87	19th					78	68		73
December ...	30·08	73·6	76		74·8	68·7	79·5	65·5	19th	84·5	16th & 25th					86	66		76
Year ...	30·06	77·6	80·2		78·9	71·9	83·7									77·5	74·3		76

ht.=35 feet, *hr.*=33 feet. Nassau Station.

Months.	Amount of Cloud.				Rainfall.			Weather. No. of days of							Wind. No. of Observations of								
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	9	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Snow.	Hail.	Thunder-storms.	Clear sky.	Over-cast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January...	4·1	4		4·05	3·92	2·10	15th	14	—	—	1	24½	6	—	5	7½	8	2	1	1	—	4½	2
February	3·9	2·6		3·2	·37	·22	22nd	4	—	—	—	24	4	—	1½	3½	7½	4½	2½	1½	1½	1½	5½
March ...	3·7	3		3·3	1·38	·58	26th	8			1	26	8		2	4½	9½	7½	3½	—	—	1	4
April ...	3·6	4·4		4	1·66	·68	21st	12			3	20	10		5	4	6½	4	3	2½	2	2	1
May ...	3·4	2·7		3	2·22	·56	16th	14			1	27	4		1½	2½	6½	15½	3	½	—	½	1
June ...	4·2	4		4·1	6·41	1·92	19th	16			4	22½	7½		4½	6½	5½	5½	1½	3	1	1	1½
July ...	3·8	4·3		4	14·36	2·84	10th	21			1	22½	8½		½	1½	8½	11½	3½	1½	½	—	3½
August ...	3	3·3		3 1	6·67	1·09	1st	17			6	22½	8		1	½	3½	14½	3½	5	½	—	2½
September	4	4·3		4·1	11·25	2·24	25th	28			2	20	10		—	4	12½	9	1	2	—	½	1
October...	2·6	4		3·3	1·85	·70	27th	14			—	26	5		2	6½	14	2½	1	1	½	½	3
November	2·2	2·5		2·3	1·00	·40	1st	10			—	27	3		4½	12	5½	2	½	1	½	1	3
December	5·3	5·4		5·3	3·60	·58	16th	20			—	16½	14½		4	4½	4½	5½	4½	2½	2	1	2½
Year ...	3·6	3·7		3·6	54·69			178			19	287½	89		31½	57½	92	84	28½	21½	8½	13½	30½

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS.

115. The revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1906, was £3,693 12*s.* 2*d.*, an increase of £327 1*s.* 9*d.* over that of the previous year.

116. There was an increase in the sale of stamps amounting to £242 4*s.* 7*d.*

117. The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 484,455, as against 468,066 in 1904-5, an increase of 16,389.

118. The following is a comparative statement of quantities of letters and postal packets received and despatched:—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase.	Decrease.	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
Foreign—								
Letters and post-cards.	153,370	159,795	6,325	—	134,443	138,509	4,066	—
Newspapers and books.	84,155	85,184	1,029	—	13,721	14,344	623	—
Interinsular—								
Letters and post-cards.	26,364	29,081	2,717	—	28,984	32,928	3,944	—
Newspapers and books.	735	635	—	100	26,294	24,079	—	2,215
Total	264,624	274,695	10,071	100	203,442	209,860	8,633	2,215

119.

—	Number.	Value.
		£ *s.* *d.*
Number of parcels received from :		
United Kingdom	2,277	3,554 4 8
United States	2,987	1,915 16 11
Number of parcels despatched to :		
United Kingdom	366	397 13 2
United States	318	149 9 8
Total	5,948	6,017 4 5

—an increase of 370 in number and £1,097 in value of parcels from the United Kingdom, and from the United States an increase of 730, value £293 5*s.* 0*d.*

120. Money orders issued and paid were as follows:—

Countries.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom	525	632 0 0	134	386 15 1
United States	1,011	971 6 2	302	722 17 4
Total...	1,536	1,603 6 2	436	1,109 12 5

The above gives a decrease of 340 in number and £579 6*s.* 10*d.* in value of orders issued, and of 50 in number and £378 17*s.* 7*d.* in value of orders drawn, as compared with the previous year.

121. During the year 794 British postal orders, value, including poundage, £344 12*s.* 4*d.*, were issued, and 192 orders, value £116 1*s.* 8*d.*, were paid. This, to some extent, accounts for the decrease in money order transactions.

Telegraph Service.

122. The revenue of the Telegraph Department was £1,520 2*s.* 5*d.* and the expenditure £557 11*s.* 2*d.* In 1904 the revenue was £1,220 7*s.* 9*d.* and the expenditure £572 16*s.* 2*d.*

123. A total of 4,419 messages passed over the cable, of which 477 were to and from Great Britain and 3,137 to and from other countries. The total number in 1904 was 3,311.

124. The telegraph rates are:—

	s.	*d.*	
Great Britain	2	6	a word.
Canada	1	8	a word.
Bermuda	2	10	a word.
Jamaica	3	0	a word.
Havana	1	8	a word.
United States, East ...	1	6	a word.
United States, West ...	1	10	a word.
Florida	1	3	a word.

125. The Superintendent of Telegraphs congratulates the Department on the fact that no complaint of error or delay has been received, this being the fourteenth year that such record has been maintained.

126. A telephone exchange is now being set up in the city of Nassau.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

127. The agents of certain steamship companies continue to engage labourers for work in Mexico and other places.

128. The Resident Justice of Inagua writes: "About 1,000 men are now employed in Mexico, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Spanish Honduras, and Panama, under contract. Those in Mexico are employed principally as dock labourers and on work connected with the Mexican Central Railway. In Nicaragua and British Honduras the work is in connection with the mahogany trade of the Geo. D. Emery Co., of Chelsee, Mass. Those in Panama are employed at the Canal. Wages are from $15 to $16 a month with extra pay for overtime work, and free board and lodging.

"The principal lines of steamers taking labourers are the Hamburg-American and the Geo. D. Emery. The rate of wage is 50 cents a day with extra pay for overtime."

129. The Resident Justice at Long Cay (Fortune Island) writes: "The Hamburg-American Line, formerly Atlas, has employed 1,513 men during the year for loading and unloading their ships along the Jamaican and South American ports. Wages 2*s.* per diem and 5*d.* an hour overtime. Average length of voyage 16 days. The Santa Marta Railway Co. (Santa Marta—Panama) engaged 25 men in January and 42 in September for work upon their wharves and along their railway track. Wages $15 a month and overtime 10 cents an hour. The Panama R. R. Co., New York, contracted with 573 men for work at Colon, or at Panama, or La Boca."

130. The subjoined table compares the labour traffic in 1905 with that of 1904:—

—	Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiring of engagement.	
		To work on board ship.	To work on docks or railway on mainland.		From working on board ship.	From dock or railway work on mainland.
Inagua:						
1904 ...	68	2,081	675	69	2,100	724
1905 ...	78	2,010	545	80	2,004	697
Long Cay:						
1904 ...	66	1,534	280	65	1,489	137
1905 ...	68	1,513	640	66	1,455	265

131. Unfortunately, lately, considerable dissatisfaction has arisen in connection with the conditions under which labourers contract for service in foreign parts and the arrangements for their payment, and the Government is now enquiring into this matter with the view of providing an adequate remedy.

132. A Commission of enquiry, under the able presidency of the Attorney-General, into the administration of the out-islands, was appointed during the year by His Excellency the Governor, but has not yet finished its labours. A tour of the Colony which I was fortunately able to make last April and May in company with one of the Circuit Magistrates, has convinced me of the great importance of using every means to develop the out-islands.

133. The trade of the Colony was good and the general condition of the people satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to grant relief to distressed persons to more than a very limited extent.

W. HART BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas,
28th July, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
467	Uganda Protectorate	1904–1905
468	Somaliland Protectorate	,,
469	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas...	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa	,,
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	,,
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	,,
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
480	Basutoland	,,
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	,,
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	,,
485	Hong Kong	,,
486	St. Helena	,,
487	Weihaiwei	,,
488	Gold Coast	,,
489	Seychelles	,,
490	Falkland Islands	,,
491	Gambia	,,
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905
494	Ceylon	,,
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. Do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 543.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 496.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN and SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.,
and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1907.

[Cd. 3729-7.] *Price* 2½*d.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. FINANCIAL	4
II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES	8
III. LEGISLATION	19
IV. EDUCATION	20
V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	23
VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS	25
VII. VITAL STATISTICS	26
VIII POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS	28
IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	30

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE BOTANIC STATION, 1906–7...	32

No. 543.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1905–6, *see* No. 496.)

THE ACTING-GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Nassau,
23rd August, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1906-7, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. HART BENNETT,
Administrator.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 24282 10/07 D & S 5 30028 A

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The Revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1907, was £79,058, as compared with £77,294 in the previous year, or £5,057 more than the average annual revenue of the preceding five years.

2. The following statement gives details:—

Heads of Revenue.	1905–6.	1906–7.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	64,422	65,987	1,565	—
2. Port Dues, &c.	373	433	60	—
3. Licences and Internal Revenue...	4,466	4,606	140	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements ...	2,709	2,104	—	605
5. Post and Telegraphs	4,721	4,937	216	—
6. Rents	300	320	20	—
7. Widows and Orphans	114	111	—	3
8. Miscellaneous	11	5	—	6
9. Interest	176	553	377	—
10. Land Sales...	2	2	—	—
Totals	77,294	79,058	2,378	614

3. The increase in revenue over last year is accounted for mainly by increased importations of dutiable goods.

4. The expenditure amounted to £71,087, as against £70,256 in 1905-6, or an increase of £831, and was £2,886 less than the average annual expenditure of the preceding five years.

5. The details of the expenditure were as follows:—

Service.	1905–6.	1906–7.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Public Debt Charges	6,622	6,486	—	136
2. Pensions	3,217	3,791	574	—
3. House of Assembly	914	1,157	243	—
4. Legislative Council	70	66	—	4
5. Governor	1,245	1,360	115	—
6. Colonial Secretary	969	924	—	45
Carried forward	13,037	13,784	932	185

Expenditure—cont.

Service.	1905–6.	1906–7.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward... ...	13,037	13,784	932	185
7. Receiver General	3,055	3,057	2	—
8. Judicial	6,617	6,347	--	270
9. Registrar	544	558	14	—
10. Constabulary and Police... ...	5,602	5,649	47	—
11. Fire	379	587	208	—
12. Surveyor-General...	446	462	16	—
13. Audit	379	360	—	19
14. Post Office...	7,531	6,796	—	735
15. Telegraphs and Telephones ...	1,278	1,301	23	—
16. Ecclesiastical	230	115	—	115
17. Education	5,100	5,107	7	—
18. Public Libraries	456	455	—	1
19. Port and Marine	1,933	1,767	—	166
20. Medical	713	724	11	—
21. Charitable Institutions	7,760	7,130	—	630
22. Prisons	1,889	1,779	—	110
23. Public Works	10,495	11,619	1,124	—
24. Miscellaneous	1,862	2,585	723	—
25. Board of Agriculture	750	600	—	150
26. Sponge Board	200	305	105	—
Totals	70,256	71,087	3,212*	2,381

* Net increase £831.

The surplus for the year was £7,971, and the total surplus on the 31st March, 1907, amounted to £19,405.

6. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue (+) or Expenditure (—).
	£	£	£
1902–3	72,442	74,614	— 2,172
1903–4	71,377	74,038	— 2,661
1904–5	71,112	69,825	+ 1,287
1905–6	77,294	70,256	+ 7,038
1906–7	79,058	71,087	+ 7,971

It is satisfactory to note from this table that the balance of revenue over expenditure has increased to a considerable extent.

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st March, 1907, are given in the following table:—

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Cash in Colonial Chest	4,711	10	3	On Current Account—			
„ at Out-Islands and in transit	488	7	9	Salaries	19	11	8
„ in hands of Crown Agents	1,956	0	0	Pensions	457	12	1
„ in transit to Crown Agents	—			Miscellaneous	2,009	12	2
Surplus Funds invested	4,636	7	0		2,486	15	11
Hotel Fund Investments	10,239	19	1				
„ „ Advance against unissued Scrip "Straits" Government Loan.	51	6	0				
Cash lent at interest by Crown Agents	10,100	0	0	Savings Bank—Due to depositors (including interest to 30th June, 1906)	25,195	16	3
Savings Bank, Invested to 30th June, 1906, £26,016 3s. 5d., costing	25,362	2	9	Excess of assets over liabilities	35,153	8	1
„ Income Tax	42	9	3				
„ Crown Agents in transit	—						
„ Balance Cash— £ s. d.							
In office 20 6 5	1,043	11	11				
In Bank 1,023 5 6							
Cable Repair Fund—Invested, £6,306 1s. 8d.*							
Customs Bonds maturing	2,891	8	11				
Miscellaneous Advances	232	17	4				
Telephone Loan—Advance by Treasury under Law 22 of 1906	1,080	0	0				
Total	62,836	0	3	Total	62,836	0	3

* To this Fund Colony contributes £700 a year up to 1911 inclusive. In 1912 Government and Contractors divide whatever sum stands to credit of Fund.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1906, was put at £27,092 0s. 2d.

Public Debt.

8. The following is a statement of the Public Debt in a new and improved form:—

Debts Outstanding.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.	Provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and Enactments by which it is made.	Amount of Original Debt.	Amount Repaid or held for Repayment.	Remarks.
£ s. d. 23,258 6 7	Various persons in debentures of £100.	£4 10s. per cent. per annum paid half-yearly.	In 1885. The failure of the Nassau Public Bank to liquidate certain claims against the Government.	Principal and Interest secured by 48 & 49 Vict., c. 24, which provides that so long as any debentures remain outstanding the sum of £1,925 shall be remitted from General Revenue annually to Crown Agents who shall pay the interest and other charges, and (1) either invest the remainder by way of Sinking Fund, or, (2) purchase debentures in the open market, or, (3) reduce the debt by the annual drawing of as many debentures as the balance will allow.	£ s. d. 35,000 0 0	£ s. d. 11,741 13 5	Eight debentures of £100 each were drawn for payment by the Crown Agents. The seventeenth annual drawing took place on 1st August, 1906. Bonds redeemed, £11,300; Cash with Crown Agents £441 13s. 5d.; Total £11,741 13s. 5d.
28,920 4 8	Various persons in debentures of £ s. d 100 0 0 50 0 0 150 0 0 2,000 0 0 1,000 0 0 200 0 0 500 0 0 175 0 0 70 0 0 175 13 6 29 0 0 125 0 0 126 6 8	£4 per cent. per annum paid quarterly.	In 1888. For the purpose of redeeming outstanding debentures which had from time to time been issued within these Islands.	51 Vict., c. 9, charged on the General Revenue Debentures redeemable 35 years after date of issue. A Sinking Fund was established by 63 Vict., c. 7, to which a first contribution was made of £10,000 from Surplus Funds, and it is provided that £900 be annually added.	48,126 0 2	19,205 15 6	Sinking Fund to 31st March, 1907, £18,107 17s. 1d. Advance against unissued Scrip Straits Settlements Government Loan, £1,097 18s. 5d.; Total, £19,205 15s. 6d.
17,812 6 3	Various persons in debentures of £100 £500	£4 per cent. per annum paid quarterly.	January, 1892. Telegraph cable between Bahamas and Florida.	55 Vict., c. 1, charged on General Revenue Debentures redeemable 30 years after date of issue, £630 per annum to be added to Sinking Fund.	30,000 0 0	12,187 13 9	Sinking Fund to 31st March, 1907, £11,729 10s. 1d. Advances against unissued Scrip Straits Settlements Government Loan, £485 3s. 8d.; Total, £12,187 13s. 9d.
£69,990 17 6					£113,126 0 2	£43,135 2 8	

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

9. The value of the imports during the year 1906 is computed at £329,115, including £15,729 in specie, as compared with £308,544 in 1905, £16,591 in specie.

10. They were distributed as follows:—

Country.	Amount 1906.	Amount 1905.
	£	£
From United Kingdom	63,050°	76,978‡
„ United States	250,288†	219,645§
„ Canada	3,050	3,950
„ British West Indies	5,316	4,372
„ Foreign Countries other than United States of America.	7,411	3,599
Total	329,115	308,544

° Including £8,080 in specie. † Including £2,591 in specie.
‡ Including £14,000 in specie. § Including £2,591 in specie.

11. The values of the principal articles imported, as compared with the previous year, were:—

Articles.	Value of Imports, 1905.	Value of Imports, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alcoholic liquors—	£	£	£	£
Ale, cider, porter	2,041	2,493	479	—
Brandy	85	102	17	—
Gin	2,025	2,520	495	—
Liqueurs and cordials ...	582	—*	—	582
Rum	2,295	2,247	—	48
Whisky	1,749	1,950	201	—
Wines	898	1,115	217	—
Alcohol	10	20	10	—
Automobiles	—	739	739	—
Bicycles	378	455	77	—
Butter and cheese	7,677	8,018	341	—
Cattle	1,966	1,650	—	361
Coffee	2,171	2,966	795	—
Corn, corn meal, and hominy	13,432	7,824	—	5,608
Coal	1,860	1,317	—	543
Fertilisers	1,292	918	—	374
Flour, &c.	39,034	35,572	—	3,462
Gasoline	450	290	—	160
Hay, oats, and bran	3,798	4,237	439	—
Horses	364	54	—	310
Carried forward ...	82,107	74,487	3,810	11,448

* If any liqueurs have been imported they have been accounted for under other heads.

Value of Principal Articles Imported—cont.

Articles.	Value of Imports, 1905.	Value of Imports, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	82,107	74,497	3,810	11,448
Ice	1,511	1,297	—	214
Lard	4,744	4,564	—	180
Lumber and shingles ...	9,321	6,115	—	3,206
Machinery	6,442	4,885	—	1,557
Meat, fresh	4,046	4,786	740	—
Meat, salt	9,479	11,116	1,637	—
Oil, kerosene	3,427	2,163	—	1,264
Tomatoes and onions ...	1,512	1,336	—	176
Rice	10,031	10,028	—	3
Rope and canvas	5,846	7,151	1,305	—
Soap	1,757	1,678	—	79
Sugars	11,160	14,350	3,190	—
Tea	963	1,049	86	—
Tobacco and cigars	6,304	4,313	—	1,991
Unenumerated—				
Earthenware, glassware, &c.	41,036	58,159	17,123	—
Hardware, tinware, &c. ...	12,905	14,504	1,599	—
Preserved meats, fish, &c.	16,354	26,066	9,712	—
Textile fabrics	52,488	50,930	—	1,558
All other articles	10,547*	14,454	3,907	—
Totals	291,953	313,386	43,109	21,676
Specie...	16,591	15,729	—	862
Totals	308,544	329,115	43,109	22,538

* In Blue Book Report for 1905–6 these figures were £12,795, which included certain articles (alcohol, bicycles and coal) now separately enumerated.

12. For the absolute accuracy of the figures under this head I cannot vouch, although I have taken the greatest trouble to verify them. The system under which they are compiled is not satisfactory, but the Receiver-General's Department is under-manned, and, as stated in my report for 1905-6, para. 22, there should be added to that Department a statistical clerk, whose sole duty should be to examine and classify all entries for goods inwards and outwards.

13. The returns call for no particular comment. The bulk of our trade is, and must be, with the United States. An increase of trade with Canada had been anticipated, whereas, according to the figures, there was a decrease. But I am informed that importers often omit to describe their goods as the produce of Canada, and as they are in a great measure imported *viâ* New York, they appear in the returns as having been imported from the United States. Certificates of origin are not demanded in this Colony.

14. The total exports were valued at £221,925 (which includes £9,459 in specie). £210,775 represent the produce of the Colony. The figures in 1905 were £222,905 (including £12,943 in specie), and £204,293.

15. The following table gives the particulars of the export of the main articles of Colonial produce:—

Article.	Exports, 1905.		Exports, 1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Sponge ... ... lbs.	1,486,128	113,753	1,528,802	115,528
Pineapples ... ... dozen.	197,546	19,776	146,487	11,524
Grape fruit ... No.	564,061	2,397	430,134	1,837
Bahamas hemp (sisal) lb.	3,040,045	37,522	3,867,034	40,140
Turtle shell ... lb.	7,923	8,527	8,720	9,600
Oranges ... ... No.	1,706,318	1,388	567,269	783
Shells (conch) ... No.	827,491	2,836	708,465	1,669
Bark ... ... lb.	114,933°	1,272	93,465	1,303
Hardwood ... ... tons.	614	798	475	732
Pineapples, preserved cases.	64,606	11,713	117,196	19,090
Cotton ... ... lb.	6,676	119	13,105	274
Salt ... ... bushels.	40,037	546	96	2
Cocoanuts ... ... No.	15,950	34	297,850	710
Lumber ... ... feet.	nil	nil	1,162,121	5,498
Shingles ... ... No.	nil	nil	89,400	103

° In the report for 1905 this appeared as £4,933 by a clerical error.

16. The exportations of sisal are steadily growing.

17. Fresh pineapples are not exported to so large an extent as formerly, but on the other hand there is a very large increase in the export of the preserved variety.

18. The export of grapefruit and oranges has gone down considerably; also of salt, now practically nil.

19. New items of export of Colonial produce appear under the heads of cocoanuts and "lumber." I remark further on these points under the head of agricultural industries.

20. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	1905.	1906.
	£	£
United Kingdom	12,520	16,499
Canada	2,568	2,018
Jamaica	438	1,028
United States	141,149	126,381
Other Foreign Countries	47,623	64,795
Total	204,293	210,775

21. The increased value of exports to the United Kingdom is partly accounted for by the greater exportation of sponge. No sisal appears to have been exported to England during the year, but a small quantity (value £1,438) went to Canada. In spite of this, I regret to note that the exportations to Canada have decreased, although a steamer of the Elder-Dempster Line ran periodically during the year.

22. The United States took nearly £15,000 less sponge than in 1905, but there was an increase in the value of the exportations of that article to France of some £9,000, and to Germany of £6,000.

23. I subjoin a return of the value of imports and exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1902	306,095	207,601	513,699
1903	294,590	210,493	505,083
1904	297,241	194,936	492,177
1905	308,544	222,905	531,449
1906	329,115	221,925	551,040

(B.) Mines and Quarries, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

24. Mines, none. Limestone for building is found in most of the larger islands, valued at the quarry at 10*d.* per cubic foot.

Pineapples.

25. The J. S. Johnson Company have rearranged and made substantial additions to their factory at Nassau, while Messrs. A. & A. Griffins have remodelled and built a two-storey factory at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera.

26. In 1906 the J. S. Johnson Company purchased 242,242 dozen pineapples for canning purposes, as against 162,118 dozen in 1905, an increase of 80,124 dozen. A. & A. Griffin purchased in 1906 124,000 dozen, in 1905 80,000 dozen, an increase of 44,000 dozen.

27. The exports of preserved pineapples were 117,196 cases, as compared with 64,606 cases in 1905; valued at £19,090 and £11,713 respectively.

28. The Board of Agriculture have a special grant of £100 from the House of Assembly for the purpose of making practical experiments in the cultivation of pineapples, testing fertilizers, and the best methods of applying the same.

Sisal Factories.

29. There were five factories in New Providence. The J. S. Johnson Company have two factories, with two cleaning machines; 1,500 acres are planted, and the output was about 39 tons.

30. The Bahamas Fibre Company have three factories and about 1,350 acres. One Todd and one Villamor machine are in use, and the output was about 70 tons.

31. At Little Abaco the Sisal Fibre Company has two cleaning machines; one Todd and one Torrorella machine are in use. About 5,000 acres are planted, and thirteen miles of railroad laid. The output was 260 tons.

32. There are two factories at Inagua, one only in operation, which produced about 20 tons.

Messrs. R. H. Sawyer and Co. have a factory at Abaco. At San Salvador there are two factories, with three cleaning machines, which, however, were not in operation. The plantations are nearly exhausted.

33. The Curator reports that the prospects of sisal are most encouraging. Sisal cultivation is steadily increasing, 25,000 acres being now under cultivation. The fibre produced is of good quality and strength, although there are still complaints about short and badly-cleaned fibre. As much as six cents per pound has been obtained during the greater part of the year for hand-cleaned fibre, while 8 and 9 cents are common figures for machine-cleaned.

Sponging.

34. I subjoin extracts from the report of the Sponge Board (now the "Marine Products Board") for 1906:—

> Since making its last report to the Legislature, the reserves in the Bight of Abaco and at Deadman's Cay, Long Island, have been opened for fishing.
>
> The closure for the Abaco Bight extended from the 1st April, 1905, to the 15th July, 1906, a period sufficiently long to afford an opportunity of judging the benefits obtained from the closure.
>
> It is gratifying to be able to state that there was a marked improvement in the size of the sponges gathered from these waters.
>
> For the purpose of maintaining the size of the sponges in the Abaco Bight and the adjacent waters, a rule was made restricting the smallest size of the wool and velvet sponges gathered there to not less than five inches in their widest part.
>
> This rule came into force as soon as the beds were opened and the Board is glad to be able to report that its enforcement has been loyally accepted by the spongers.
>
> In making this regulation, the Board has followed the example of the Fishery Boards in Florida and Cuba, whose regulations restrict the size of sponge gathered in those waters to not less than 4 or 5 inches respectively under severe penalties.

For the proper enforcement of the rule limiting the size of wool and velvet sponge, an Inspector has been appointed, whose duty it is to examine the sponge gathered from the Bight of Abaco and adjacent waters and to seize all wool and velvet sponges under 5 inches, and to keep a record of the sale of sponges gathered from these places.

This work has been carried on very effectively, and the Board is glad to report that only a few cases of wilful violation are on record. A small number of undersized sponges have been seized and are in custody of the Board.

The Board is not in a position to state whether or not sponges germinate at the size of four or five inches, but from information derived from the fishermen, it is led to believe that they do; and, therefore, the five-inch rule, if adhered to, ought to maintain a number of sponges for breeding purposes and keep the beds supplied continually.

For information on this and various other points connected with the life and growth of sponges, some of the members of the Board deem it desirable that scientific assistance should be employed to investigate the growth and life of sponge, and to assist them in devising measures for the preservation of other sea products.

The Board would like to restrict the size of wool and velvet sponges gathered from the whole of the sponging grounds in the Colony, but do not see their way clear to do this without appointing inspectors at the different stations where sponges are sold, a proceeding which would involve great expense.

The Board has just closed the valuable sponging grounds at Exuma known as the Hog Cay Bank, a district that is now almost denuded of sponge.

The watchman's report on these grounds, as well as what the Board has learned from other sources, shows that a period of rest is required for these beds to recuperate, and the Board can only continue the closure to the 31st day of May next, unless the Act is continued.

* * * * * *

Fishery boards have had to be established in various countries for protecting and maintaining the supply of their sea products, and the need of the Board for controlling the sea products of this Colony is becoming more and more apparent. With enlarged powers and a larger grant the Board believes it will be one of the most useful boards in the Colony.

Should the Legislature continue the expiring Act, amending it so that the entire harvest of the sea be placed under its control, it will be necessary to increase the present grant to £300 per annum.

35. During the Session recently closed an Act was passed enlarging the powers of the Board, and enabling them to deal with other sea products, such as turtle and conchs, but the House of Assembly have not thought fit to make a grant of money to secure the services of a marine biologist to investigate the whole question of sponge growth in Bahamian waters.

36. The exports of sponge were, in 1905, 1,486,128 lbs., valued at £113,753, and in 1906 1,528,802 lbs., valued at £115,528, an increase in quantity of 42,674 lbs. and in value of £1,775.

37. The table annexed gives a comparative return of sponge exported for the last five years:—

Comparative Return of Sponge Exported, 1902–1906.

Country to which exported.	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
United Kingdom...	179,797	8,867	118,785	8,619	100,827	8,251	95,499	5,387	175,938	10,258
Canada	3,872	792	2,631	257	781	214	1,457	420	—	—
United States of America ...	753,382	50,339	963,397	58,890	790,652	53,287	864,658	60,548	783,386	45,296
France	110,455	13,865	72,289	8,553	88,957	10,345	100,715	[illegible]	140,253	21,161
Holland	126,693	11,546	161,605	11,892	128,359	9.902	158,488	14,[illegible]	111,074	12,372
Germany	132,710	11,184	169,145	13,991	292,659	23,235	254,494	20,096	307,173	26,206
Russia	12,361	991	27,774	2,192	5,723	484	10,441	666	1,113	94
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,396	125	9,863	140
Totals	1,319,270	97,584	1,515,626	104,394	1,407,958	105,718	1,490,148	113,753	1,528,800	115,527

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

38. I subjoin extracts from the report of the Board of Agriculture:—

> Among the many questions that have engaged the attention of the Board during the year, the following call for special comment.
>
> *Fruit and Sisal Inspection.*—There seems to be no doubt that the Bahamian products, chiefly citrus fruit and hand-cleaned sisal, are being brought into bad repute in foreign markets by the shipment of poor and badly-graded fruit and badly-cleaned sisal made from short and immature leaves. The Board feels it to be its duty to express its opinion that serious and permanent damage will be inflicted on some of the most important and promising industries of the Colony if some system of Government inspection, or some agreement among cultivators and shippers, is not strictly enforced.
>
> *Experiments in the cultivation and curing of Tobacco.*—The Board thinks that the results of the experiments made on a limited scale in 1906 justify more elaborate tests of soils and cultivation, but it is impossible to assign from the present grant the amount asked for by the Curator for this purpose.
>
> *Experiments in the cultivation of Pine-apple, with special reference to fertilizing and the introduction of new varieties.*—The Board considers it very desirable that such experiments should be made by cultivating one acre of each of the two kinds of land in which pine-apples are being largely planted in New Providence, but the present grant will not permit this extension of work already undertaken. Pine-apple growers feel the need of more knowledge of fertilisers and the methods of applying them, and special appeals have been made to the Board for assistance in this direction.
>
> * * * * * *
>
> *Roads at the Out-Islands.*—The Board is convinced that there can be no substantial development in agriculture in these islands without roads suitable for wheel traffic, and hopes that the Legislature will soon initiate a definite scheme of regular though gradual improvement and extension of Out-Island roads. Such roads as are used on the large plantations in New Providence could be made at a moderate cost.
>
> The Board is pleased to be able to report that the people throughout the Colony are showing an increasing interest and confidence in agriculture. The cultivation of sisal is steadily extending, and other crops are being tried. The Board is grateful for the able assistance rendered by many of the resident justices, who take a keen, intelligent, and practical interest in the development of the Out-Islands, and are doing excellent work.

Sisal.

39. The Curator states that 25,000 acres are now under cultivation, but, as stated in my report of 1905, too much reliance cannot be placed on these figures. But there is no doubt that the cultivation of sisal is steadily increasing, especially in the out-islands. Unfortunately in spite of the

efforts of the Resident Justices and the Curator, many cultivators continue to cut immature fibre, and do not sufficiently clean it. The Chairman of the Board of Agriculture goes so far as to say that the shipment from the Bahamas of badly-cleaned sisal made from short and immature leaves is bringing the product into bad repute in foreign markets, and it would seem to be most desirable that some system of Government inspection and grading on exportation should be instituted (not only with regard to sisal, but also with respect to other Colonial produce).

3,867,034 lbs., valued at £40,140, were exported in 1906, as against 3,040,045 lbs., valued at £37,522 in 1905.

40. Sisal is easily cultivated, but I noticed with regret in a tour of the Colony which I made last year that it is in some places grown on land that would produce vegetables, simply because the former gives no trouble and the latter do. Land suited for the cultivation of vegetables is scarce in these islands.

Grape-Fruit.

41. 430,134 were exported, as against 564,061 in 1905 and 231,096 in 1904, with values respectively of £1,837, £2,397, and £1,374. The crop was short.

Oranges.

42. There was a very considerable decrease in the export of oranges. In 1905 1,706,318 were exported, value £1,388; in 1906 only 567,269, value £783. But in 1905 a Canadian exported over a million oranges from Eleuthera alone. The venture was, however, not successful, and was not repeated in 1906.

43. Very satisfactory work was done at the Agricultural Experimental Station in Nassau, and I annex a report by the Curator* dealing fully, and in a most interesting manner, with the various cultivations, and with the condition of agriculture in the out-islands.

Lumber.

44. The Bahamas Timber Company, Limited, which has a concession at Abaco, sawed during 1906 3,360,464 feet of lumber and 265,800 shingles.

The company is largely extending its operations, and is likely to employ a large amount of labour.

An adjoining tract of land has been leased to another firm for the purpose of exploiting the pine timber thereon.

* *See* Appendix.

Cocoanuts.

45. It will be seen from the Curator's report that the Florida Refining Company, of Jacksonville, made large purchases, and the cultivation is likely to grow.

(D.) Land Grants.

46. The total number of acres granted is put at 368,127, and the total remaining ungranted at 1,767,423. The total number of acres of Crown land sold in 1906 was 167, as against 86 in 1905.

47. The practice of squatting on Crown lands is very prevalent. When possible, steps are taken to eject squatters or to make them pay for the lands occupied.

48. The staff of surveyors at the disposal of the Government is quite inadequate, and in many cases lands granted two or more years ago remain unsurveyed.

(E.) Shipping.

49. The following return gives the number and tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared in 1906 as compared with 1905:—

Sailing Vessels.

—	1905.				1906.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	1	395	—	—	—	—	—	—
U.S. America ...	112	13,114	111	12,049	125	12,720	110	11,424
British West Indies	53	1,811	65	1,739	61	1,805	84	3,076
Cuba	14	1,302	4	203	16	1,310	16	1,317
Hayti	24	292	15	196	10	198	7	149
Central America ...	1	133	3	336	—	—	3	447
Spanish West Indies	1	133	1	74	—	—	—	—
Mexico	—	—	1	602	1	90	3	390
Nova Scotia ...	1	108	2	304	—	—	—	—
South America ...	—	—	1	720	—	—	—	—
Porto Rico ...	—	—	—	—	1	309	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	1	298	—	—
Danish West Indies	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	21
Totals ...	207	17,288	203	16,223	215	16,730	225	16,824

50. The following is a similar return for steam vessels:—

Steam Vessels.

—	1905.				1906.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1. United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	6	14,844	5	12,360
2. U.S. America ...	200	390,827	154	246,367	240	425,686	242	420,713
3. British West Indies.	13	20,986	63	174,063	59	126,861	92	201,059
4. South America	13	30,255	9	20,288	35	77,886	15	33,901
5. Hayti	22	30,890	50	72,456	10	15,438	52	80,138
6. Cuba	32	59,204	36	67,445	26	47,824	29	58,413
7. Mexico	5	9,705	10	17,459	9	18,509	15	30,405
8. Danish West Indies.	1	2,389	—	—	1	2,277	—	—
9. British Honduras.	1	2,389	4	8,532	2	4,778	3	7,167
10. U. S. Columbia	30	46,977	—	—	55	91,212	—	—
11. Canada	7	12,826	—	—	10	19,031	1	1,827
12. Portugal ...	1	1,103	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Porto Rico ...	1	1,123	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Guatemala ...	—	—	1	1,165	—	—	—	—
15. Central America	—	—	1	1,482	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	326	608,673	328	609,195	453	844,346	454	845,983

51. The number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared during 1906, distinguishing nationalities, are given in the following return:—

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1. British ...	167	8,482	179	8,682	42	91,959	42	91,959
2. American ...	42	8,147	40	8,041	115	201,045	116	201,837
3. Cuban ...	1	30	1	30	2	2,080	1	2,034
4. Haytian ...	4	64	4	64	—	—	—	—
5. Dominican ...	1	7	1	7	—	—	—	—
6. German ...	—	—	—	—	273	534,005	274	534,896
7. Norwegian ...	—	—	—	—	21	15,257	21	15,257
Totals ...	215	16,730	225	16,824	453	844,346	454	845,983
Totals in 1905 ...	207	17,288	203	16,223	326	608,673	328	609,195

° *See* para. 56.

52. The following is a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the past five years:—

—	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.				Totals.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1902 ..	270	22,521	267	22,155	296	499,514	297	500,398	1,130	1,044,588
1903 ..	242	19,796	239	19,205	287	542,325	288	542,561	1,056	1,023,887
1904 ..	224	17,424	226	17,831	287	523,625	286	521,801	1,023	1,080,681
1905 ..	207	17,288	203	16,223	326	608,673	328	609,195	1,064	1,251,379
1906 ..	215	16,730	225	16,824	453	844,346	454	845,983	1,347	1,723,883

53. The number of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was:—

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1902	25	555
1903	14	557
1904	18	299
1905	5	77
1906	13	229

54. It will be seen that there was a satisfactory increase in the number and tonnage of both sailing and steam vessels.

55. As compared with 1905 eight more British steamers entered, and nine more cleared, and one more American entered and cleared.

56. Two hundred and seventy-three German vessels entered, as against 162 in 1905; tonnage respectively, 534,005 and 333,734. A large number of these called at Inagua and Long Cay for the sole purpose of embarking and landing labourers for Mexico, Central America. But I find on enquiry that these figures are misleading, as prior to 1906 these vessels were not required to come to an entry, and were therefore not recorded in the Customs statistics; whereas now they are, as they should be, required to put in an entry in proper form.

III.—LEGISLATION.

57. The most important Act of the Session of 1907 was the Act for the protection of emigrant labourers (Ch. 3). Mention was made of the matter in paragraph 121 of my report for 1905-6. The general effect of the Act is to secure to the labourer the payment in full of his wages in the currency of the Colony, and thus to save him from becoming the prey of

middle-men. Some of the provisions of the Act are somewhat drastic, and fears have been expressed in some quarters that it may lead to the destruction of employment.

58. Another useful measure is the Truck Act (Ch. 4), which was designed to remedy the grievances of the employés of a pineapple-canning factory in one of the out-islands. At this factory wages were not payable until the end of the season; in the meantime the employers were in the habit of giving the workpeople tin checks, which could only be redeemed at the employers' own store, a system which was obviously liable to lead to abuse.

59. The Inter-Insular Mails Act (Ch. 7) should have the effect of improving the mail, passenger, and freight services between Nassau and the Out-Islands, and empowers the Governor in Council to incur considerably larger expenditure than has hitherto been voted, provided that larger sailing vessels or steamers are employed.

60. By Chapter 8 the Legislature voted a sum of £12,000 to provide electric light and electrical energy for the city of Nassau and its suburbs.

61. Chapter 9 declares the law with respect to marriages between a man and his deceased wife's sister. This Act, unless disallowed by His Majesty, will come into operation on the 1st of January, 1908.

62. In all 25 Acts were passed by the Legislature, to 24 of which the Governor has assented.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary.

63. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools:—

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Schools Aided by Grant of Material only.				Total.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.
1904	45	7,393	6,226	4,533	11	1,105	1,017	585	4	208	180	150	60	8,706	7,423	5,268
1905	44	7,204	6,089	4,509	12	1,077	928	571	5	253	232	186	61	8,534	7,249	5,266
1906	46	7,314	6,154	4,592	16	1,199	1,042	632	—	—	—	—	62	8,513	7,196	5,224

64. The teaching staff under the Board was as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.
Principal teachers ...	44	44	46
Assistant teachers ...	3	6	8
Pupil teachers	5	6	5
Monitors...	107	112	132
Sewing teachers	5	7	9
Students in training ...	2	3	3
Employed in aided schools	13	13	16
Total ...	179	191	219

65. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

—	1904.			1905.			1906.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools	3,288	2,938	6,226	3,189	2,900	6,089	3,232	2,928	6,160
Aided Private Schools ..	530	487	1,017	493	435	928	576	489	1,065
Church of England ..	998	1,024	2,022	806	886	1,692	747	832	1,579
Roman Catholic	196	310	506	189	302	491	2,111	268	479
Private Schools	113	155	268	135	154	289	138	188	326
Total	5,125	4,914	10,039	4,812	4,677	9,489	4,904	4,705	9,609

66. The average cost per child was 19*s.* 9½*d.*, as against 19*s.* 11*d.* in 1905, and £1 12*s.* 9*d.* in 1884.

67. I subjoin an extract from the report of the Board of Education, which gives some idea of the difficulties they have to meet:—

> The Division of the population of these Islands into so many small and isolated communities tends very greatly to increase the cost of education. Where good discipline has been established, a teacher can as easily instruct whatever number of pupils of the same standard can be brought within the effective range of his eye and voice (say 40 to 60) as any smaller number; and this gives an enormous economic advantage to large schools when compared with such as are alone practicable in this Colony, where the teacher frequently has to spend his time in teaching half-a-dozen or less. Notwithstanding this the cost as given above, considering that in addition to salaries it covers sites, buildings, furniture, materials, and every expense of whatever kind, is surprisingly small. But the consequence is that most or all of the schools are understaffed; the salaries of principal teachers (average about £64) are less than those of tidewaiters and lighthouse keepers; in many cases the accommodation is inadequate or out of condition; and all that can be afforded for books and materials amounts to only about six pence per annum for each child who passes through the schools.

68. During the past Session the Legislature increased the grant from £4,700 to £5,000, the small addition to be devoted to increasing the pay of deserving teachers.

69. As in the previous year, heavy rains rendered many Out-Island roads almost impassable, thereby injuriously

affecting the schools; and in October Abaco and Grand Bahama were visited by a hurricane. Malarial and other fevers were more than usually prevalent among the children.

70. In New Providence 154 cases were reported under the compulsory attendance section of the Act, or 32 less than in 1905. Fifteen were not tried, 39 were dismissed, 34 orders made, 62 fined, 4 truants.

In the Out-Islands 675 cases were reported (or nearly 100 less than in 1905); 87 were not tried, 122 were dismissed, 187 orders made, 277 fined, 2 truants.

In each case although the number of cases reported were fewer than last year, the number of punishments accorded was much greater.

71. The Curator of the Botanic Station gave a series of lectures on agricultural subjects to some of the Out-Island teachers, who came into Nassau for the August vacation. The course is not being repeated this year on account of the expense, but I hope that next year the Board will see their way to make similar arrangements.

But the difficulties attending the establishment of school gardens in most of the Out-Islands are, as I know from personal observation, very great, owing to the scarcity of suitable plots adjacent to the school-houses and the want of soil.

72. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board there were 27 maintained by the Church of England, five of which are in New Providence. Total roll, 1,579; average roll, 886.

In 1905 there were 29 such schools, with a total roll of 1,692, and an average roll of 943.

73. There were also three Roman Catholic schools (two in New Providence and one in Andros Island), total roll 479; and sixteen private schools, roll 326.

(B.) Secondary Education.

74. There is unfortunately no State provision for secondary education at present.

75. Private organizations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows:—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Queen's College	28	20	48
Kindergarten	14	11	25
St. Hilda's School...	4	20	24
Nassau Grammar School	20	—	20
St. Francis Xavier's Academy	12	24	36
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera) ...	6	10	16
Total	84	85	169
Total for 1905	60	95	155

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS. (B.) ASYLUMS. (C.) POORHOUSE.

76. These institutions are all included under the head of the New Providence Asylum.

77. The number of inmates on the 1st January, 1906, was:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	40	29	69
Victoria Infirmary	15	17	32
Lunatic Asylum	20	17	37
Leper Asylum	6	1	7
Totals	81	64	145

78. Five hundred and thirty-seven patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 683, of whom 247 were discharged recovered, 111 relieved, 82 discharged not improved, and 96 died.

79. At the close of the year 129 remained, and were distributed as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	34	22	56
Victoria Infirmary	14	17	31
Lunatic Asylum	18	15	33
Leper Hospital	8	1	9
Totals	74	55	129

80. The Assistant Surgeon visited 403 cases at their homes, and treated 3,816 at the dispensary.

81. The number of prescriptions dispensed at the Public Dispensary was:—

Dispensary patients	7,219
Asylum	6,075
Police and gaol...	1,278
Public physicians	1,023
Total	15,595

a decrease of 3,760 as compared with the previous year.

82. The affairs of the institution are administered by a Board of Commissioners, to which the Legislature votes £6,000

a year. The actual expenditure in the year 1906-7 was £4,855.

83. The new Act referred to in my last report only came into force on the 1st May last, when a lay Superintendent was appointed, and the Resident Surgeon relieved of his non-professional duties.

(E.) Savings Bank.

84. The number of depositors on the 30th June, 1906 (the end of the "Savings Bank year") was 1,971, on the 30th June, 1905, 1,864, and on the 30th June, 1904, 1,700.

85. The deposits and withdrawals were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1904	3,217	7,884	2,230	7,846
1905	3,751	10,447	2,216	7,272
1906	3,858	9,791	2,528	8,580

86. The balance due to depositors was, on the 30th June, 1906, £25,196, as against £23,431 in 1905 and £19,788 in 1904.

87. The assets and liabilities are given as follows:—

Year ended 30th June	Assets.	Excess of Assets over Liabilities.
	£	£
1904	20,621	834
1905	24,465	1,034
1906	26,448	1,252

88. The average amount to the credit of each account on the 30th June, 1906, was £15 3*s.* 7*d.*, as against £12 11*s.* 5*d.* on the 30th June, 1905.

89. In the first year of the establishment of the Savings Bank (1886) there were 344 depositors, £3,055 deposits, and £379 withdrawals.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

90. The Commandant reports that the number of persons prosecuted by the police in New Providence was 834, of whom 349 were reported and 485 arrested; in 1905 the number was 1,091.

91. There were prosecuted:—

193 cases of profane language in public;
75 cases of drunkenness in public;
85 cases of fighting in public;
49 cases of assault;
25 cases of breach of the Street Traffic Acts;
46 cases of breach of Sponge Acts; and
38 cases of breach of Dog Acts.

92. The strength of the force on the 1st January, 1907, was:—

In barracks, officers	1
„ rank and file	43
Out of barracks	16
At Out-Islands	9
Local constables, New Providence ...	2
„ „ Out-Islands	27
Board of Education constable	1
Total	100

93. There were 17 outbreaks of fire in Nassau, of which three are known or believed to be accidental, and in eleven cases incendiarism was suspected.

94. Property to the value of £5,465 was endangered, the insurance on which amounted to £3,269. The owners of destroyed property give the value as £3,077, of which £2,708 was not covered by insurance.

(B.) Prisons.

95. The Inspector of Prisons reports that the following punishments were inflicted in 1906:—

Solitary confinement	37
Lower diet	45
Crank	29
Forfeiture of marks	1
Whipping (juveniles)	1
Total	113

96. This is three less than in the previous year, although the number of prisoners was large, but it should be stated that several serious cases were sent to the Law Courts for disposal.

97. Five prisoners escaped during the year, but were re-captured. They escaped from gangs working outside the prison, and in consequence it has been necessary to increase the number of overseers.

98. The sanitary condition of the prison was very good. There were two deaths, both from natural causes.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

99. The following is a table of the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years (comparative table):—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	2,827	3,006	2,849	3,016	2,585
Number of summary convi[illegible]ons :					
(1) For offences against the person	290	278	277	286	293
(2) For prædial larceny	35	50	49	40	24
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	101	119	102	107	102
(4) For other offences	1,756	1,717	1,922	1,723	1,435
Number of convictions in the Superior Court :					
(1) For offences against the person	10	15	11	17	9
(2) For prædial larceny	1	—	—	—	2
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	16	19	13	5	3
(4) For other offences	6	2	4	5	7
Number of persons acquitted :					
(1) In Inferior Court...	385	481	385	545	451
(2) In Superior Court	20	8	27	10	10

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

100. The population by the census of 1901 was 53,735.

101. Estimated population on the 31st December, 1906, was 59,142.

Births in 1906, 2,217—Birth rate, 41·2.
Deaths in 1906, 1,250—Death rate, 23·2.
Marriages, 472.

102. No death certificates are required in this Colony.

103. The area and population by the census of 1901 of the various Islands were as follows:—

District.	Area in Square Miles.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Abaco and Cays	776	1,568	1,746	3,314
Acklin's Island	120	704	861	1,565
Andros Island	1,600	3,192	3,155	6,347
Berry Islands	14	210	173	383
Biminis	8½	263	282	545
Cays Sal and Lobos... ...	7	9	9	18
Crooked Island	76	731	866	1,597
Eleuthera	164	4,159	4,574	8,733
Exuma and Cays	100	1,373	1,713	3,086
Grand Bahama	430	869	911	1,780
Harbour Island	1½	573	659	1,232
Inagua	560	748	705	1,453
Long Cay	8	257	242	499
Long Island	130	1,610	1,952	3,562
Mayaguana	96	161	174	335
New Providence	58	5,492	7,042	12,534
Ragged Island and Cays ...	5	192	173	365
Ruma Cay	29	235	294	529
San Salvador...	160	2,090	2,568	4,658
Spanish Wells	½	271	263	534
Watling's Island	60	293	374	667
Total	4,403½	25,000	28,735	53,735

(B.) Public Health.

104. The Medical Inspector reports that the health of the Island of New Providence was very good. There were a few cases of typhoid fever, and some mild influenza. Malarial fevers, unlike those of the previous year, were very mild in type, with little or no mortality.

105. Two hundred and forty-three successful vaccinations were performed in the Island of New Providence and 1,933 in the Out-Islands.

106. The Government has under consideration some rules compelling the people to take certain measures with a view of suppressing mosquito-borne disease.

107. A number of pamphlets on the subject have been distributed.

(C.) Sanitation.

108. The Medical Inspector reports that the general sanitation of the Island has been satisfactory, the water supply from springs and cisterns abundant, and the drainage good.

109. A number of seizures of diseased articles of food were made.

(D.) Climate.

110. The rainfall during the year amounted to 59·60 inches, as against 54·69 inches in 1905 and 50·56 in 1904.

111. The following are the meteorological data for the past five years:—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
1902	77·8	80·0	79	80·3	70·5	94	55	37·76
1903	77·1	79·3	78·2	81·8	70·5	92	54	51·45
1904	77·2	80·0	78·6	82·3	70·8	91	52·5	50·56
1905	77·6	80·2	78·9	83·7	71·9	92·5	52	54·69
1906	76·7	79·2	77·9	81·18	70·9	88	64	59·60
Average for five years.	77·3	79·9	78·4	82·2	70·9	91·5	55·5	50·81

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS.

112. The postal revenue for 1906-7 was £3,831, as against £3,694 in 1905-6, an increase of £137. The expenditure was £6,796, but this does not include an unpaid mail subsidy of £875.

113. The sales of stamps amounted to £2,633, as against £2,535 in the previous year.

114. The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 538,838, as against 484,455 in 1905-6 and 468,066 in 1904-5.

115. The following table compares the quantities of postal matter received and despatched in 1905-6 and 1906-7:—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1905–6.	1906–7.	Increase.	Decrease.	1905–6.	1906–7.	Increase.	Decrease.
Foreign—								
Letters and post-cards.	159,795	186,477	26,682	—	138,509	155,978	17,469	—
Newspapers and books.	85,184	84,184	—	1,000	14,344	12,250	—	2,094
Inter-insular—								
Letters and post-cards.	29,081	33,746	4,665	—	32,928	41,637	8,709	—
Newspapers and books.	635	585	—	50	24,079	23,981	—	98
Totals	274,695	304,992	31,347	1,050	209,860	233,846	26,178	2,192

116. As regards the parcel post:—

—	Number.	Value.
		£ s. d.
From United Kingdom	2,138	3,288 14 2
United States	2,899	1,981 16 7
To United Kingdom	405	384 14 4
United States	365	165 16 11
Totals	5,807	5,821 2 5

In 1905-6 the figures were:—

117. Parcels from United Kingdom, 2,277; value, £3,554.
" " United States, 2,987; value, £1,916.

118. Money orders issued and paid were as follows:—

Countries.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom	578	892 12 11	131	441 8 6
United States	1,113	1,090 13 11	327	1,121 2 2
Totals	1,691	1,983 6 10	458	1,562 10 8

119. This shows an increase of 155 in number, and £380 0*s.* 8*d.* in value of orders issued; and an increase of 22 in number and £452 18*s.* 3*d.* in value of orders paid, as compared with the previous year.

120. During the year 1906-7 1,081 British postal orders, value (including poundage) £400 12*s.* 2*d.*, were issued, and 211 orders, value £105 11*s.* 1*d.*, paid; as against 794, va' £344 12*s.* 4*d.*, issued, and 192, value £116 1*s.* 8*d.*, paid in previous year.

121. New money order conventions have recently been entered into with America and Canada, under which money orders are exchanged direct between Nassau (and also Inagua and Long Cay) and the various post offices of those countries without passing through the intermediary of the central office in each case.

Telegraph Service.

122. The revenue of the Telegraph Department was £1,258, and the expenditure £552. In the previous year the revenue was £1,520 and the expenditure £558. The decrease in

revenue was no doubt due to a falling off in the number of tourists last season. A total of 2,836 messages passed over the cable, of which 312 were to and from Great Britain and 2,524 to and from other countries. The total number in 1905 was 4,419, and in 1904 3,311.

123. The telegraph rates are as follows:—

	s.	d.	
Great Britain	2	6	a word.
Canada	1	8	„
Bermuda	2	10	„
Jamaica	3	0	„
Havana	1	8	„
United States (East)	1	6	„
„ „ (West)	1	10	„
Florida	1	3	„

124. In my report for 1905-6 I referred to the fact that a telephone exchange was being set up in the city of Nassau. It has been so successful that it is now about to be extended from the original one-mile to a three-mile limit, and further extensions will no doubt follow. The inception of the scheme was due to the Governor of the Colony—Sir William Grey-Wilson—and its execution to the ability and energy of Mr. P. H. Burns, the Superintendent of Telegraphs.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

125. The export of labour from Inagua and Long Cay continues to grow.

The Resident Justice of Inagua writes:—

> Men employed on board ship (stevedores) receive 50 cents a day, and 10 cents an hour for overtime work, averaging in all about 90 cents a day. They are required to perform any duties that may be assigned to them. The principal lines are the Hamburg-American, Elder and Fyffes, and Geo. D. Emery, and other ships call occasionally. Labourers on the mainland are paid 16 dollars a month and free board and lodging —also extra pay for overtime. They work in Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Spanish Honduras, and Columbia.

The Resident Justice of Long Cay (Fortune Island) reports:—

> The wages of labourers engaged as stevedores on ships calling at this port are 50 cents a day, with pay for overtime work at the rate of 10 cents an hour. That for those contracted for for dock work is 15 dollars per month, with overtime pay as for stevedores. Railway work, *i.e.*, for laying rails and other labour incidental to such employment, is paid for at 22 dollars 50 cents per month. The only companies which employ men from this port are the Hamburg-American line (German), the labourers being used for stevedore purposes and deck work, and the Panama Railroad Company, who employ them for work on their docks at Colon, and along the line of their railway to Panama City and elsewhere.

126. The subjoined table compares the labour traffic in 1906 with that of 1905 and 1904:—

—	Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiration of engagement.	
		To work on board ship.	To work on docks or railway on mainland.		From working on board ship.	From dock or railway work on mainland.
Inagua :						
1904 ...	68	2,081	675	69	2,100	724
1905 ...	78	2,010	545	80	2,004	697
1906 ...	93	2,675	532	92	2,760	352
Long Cay :						
1904 ...	66	1,534	280	65	1,489	137
1905 ...	68	1,513	640	66	1,455	265
1906 ...	77	2,115	493	87	1,995	496

127. During the last Session of the Legislature an important Act was passed for the protection of emigrant labourers, to which reference is made under the head of "Legislation" in paragraph 57 of this report.

128. There were two hurricanes during the year. The first did a certain amount of local damage. The second did great harm, and caused loss of life among the labourers (many of whom were Bahamians) at the railway extension works in the Florida Cays. It swept the shores of the Eastern Islands of the Colony, and wrought havoc to the growing crops. A considerable number of buildings, including a church at Bimini, were wrecked, and temporary relief had to be afforded in certain localities.

129. The following is a statement of liquor licences issued in the Island of New Providence and Out-Islands, and revenue derived from them up to the 31st December, 1906:—

General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount Received.
77	25	2	2	£1,222 6*s.* 8*d.*

General, hotel, and special licences are retail licences.

W. HART BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary,
Administering the Government.

Nassau, Bahamas,
23rd August, 1907.

APPENDIX.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT WORK.

1. The general scheme of the Board of Agriculture for the Experiment Station may be shortly summarized as follows:—

(*a*) To provide opportunities for the study of the staple crops of the Islands; the conditions under which they are grown; the results obtained by different methods of cultivation and manuring, and the introduction of new varieties; the diseases and pests attacking them; the method of preparing the products for market.

(*b*) To diffuse information on all such matters by the publication of a monthly "Bulletin" and leaflets, by instruction in scientific agriculture, and generally by conferences or meetings with cultivators.

(*c*) To distribute seed and plants therefrom.

2. The work done at this Station during the year under review is indicated below.

3. *Broom Corn.*—A 1-32 acre plot was sown on 19th March and reaped on 9th July, 1906. The weight of heads reaped was 19½ lbs. or 624 lbs. per acre.

4. The cultivation of this crop has not yet been taken up in the Bahamas. It is hoped that this may be remedied in the future as, judging from the results obtained at this station, broom corn cultivation and broom making should form a fairly lucrative minor industry, and the small cultivators' attention may be called to it as worthy of being taken up experimentally on a small scale.

5. A further trial plot 1-16th of an acre was sown on 23rd October, 1906, and promises well.

6. The purpose of these experiments is, in the first place, to start a local industry, which will supply the demand for brooms existing here, at the present time supplied by importations from the United States.

7. At the December meeting of the Board of Agriculture brooms made at this station were exhibited. The Board commented on the good quality of the straw, the look and the appearance of the brooms, and it was thought that such should find a ready and remunerative market.

8. *Cassava.*—Bahama varieties. To test the agricultural yield of the various cassavas now in cultivation in the Bahamas, experiment plots were planted from the 21st August to 11th September, 1905. The tubers were lifted at nine months' growth and at twelve months' growth in order to ascertain when to lift them to get the best results. The weights of tubers of each variety per acre at nine months' growth and at twelve months' growth are as follows:—

At nine months' growth.

Blue Stick or Black Stick	19	tons	8	cwt.	3	qrs.	12	lbs.	per	acre.
Red Skin	10	„	18	„	2	„	26	„	„	
White Spanish	7	„	17	„	3	„	25	„	„	
White Top	7	„	5	„	3	„	8	„	„	
White Stick	6	„	1	„	2	„	2	„	„	
Big George	3	„	0	„	3	„	1	„	„	

At 12 months' growth.

Blue Stick or Black Stick	21	tons	2	cwt.	2	qrs.	4	lbs.	per	acre.
Red Skin	15	„	15	„	3	„	22	„	„	
White Spanish	10	„	6	„	2	„	9	„	„	
White Top	14	„	11	„	2	„	16	„	„	
White Stick	13	„	7	„	1	„	10	„	„	
Big George	5	„	9	„	1	„	13	„	„	

9. The results of this careful series of field experiments show conclusively that cassava in the Bahamas will return a handsome profit under ordinary farm management.

10. White Top and White Stick made the greatest gain in the three months of the six varieties tested—over 7 tons per acre.

11. Large areas of land, at present producing little or nothing, could be profitably used for the growth of cassava for starch manufacture.

This is an industry that can be confidently recommended to capitalists and land owners as one of the most promising means of increasing our exportable produce without trenching upon land at present productive of other paying crops.

12. Cassava, Columbian varieties. Twenty cuttings each of the 10 best varieties of Columbian cassava were purchased from the Experiment Station, Hope, Jamaica. The propagation of these varieties is being pushed on as rapidly as possible; in a short time there will be large numbers of cuttings for distribution to the Out Islands. Experiments will be made to ascertain the best means of planting, the distance apart for producing the heaviest yields, and the best age to lift the tubers to get most starch.

13. The following is a list of the cassavas under cultivation at this station.

Bahama varieties, Blue Stick or Black Stick, Red Skin or John de Marc, White Spanish, White Top, White Stick, Big George, Abraham, Black poison, and Blue Top.

Columbian varieties, Cenpuilla, Helada No. 4, Helada No. 9, Helada No. 15, Pacho No. 2, Pacho No. 3, Montera, Pie de Paloma, Pie de Pardy, Noto Seves.

14. *Citrus Fruit.*—Grape-fruit and oranges can be successfully grown in the Bahamas, but one thing is apparent in grape-fruit culture, however, and that is, that success is going to be largely a matter of using the right varieties. Many of the Bahama varieties are considered worthless.

15. In consequence of the importance which the industry has assumed of late, a citrus grove has been laid out at this station, and a thorough trial of the merits of the different varieties will be made.

16. A citrus nursery has been planted for students to practise budding, and to have stock in readiness for good buds.

17. The following is a list of the varieties already planted :—

Grape-fruit.—Marsh-seedless, Duncan, Pernambuco, Royal, Old Bahama, Sweet Bahama Forbidden Fruit, Spanish, and Bluff Sweet.

Oranges.—Navelencia, Marjorca, Homas-assa, Jaffa, Bessie, King, Washington Navel, Omassa, Satsuma, Tangarine.

18. *Corn (Maize).*—There are four varieties of corn grown in the Bahamas, Native yellow, Native white, Caicos, and Governor. The Caicos variety is said to have been brought to these Islands from the Caicos Islands by persons engaged in sponging in those waters. The Governor takes its name from being supplied by the Government in 1883 and 1902.

19. Experiment plots each 1-16 of an acre were prepared and planted 19th March, 1906, harvested on 9th July.

The yields are as follows :—

Governor 23 bushels per acre.
Native yellow 21¼ bushels per acre.
Caicos 16¾ bushels per acre.
Native white 12½ bushels per acre.

20. The seed for this experiment was obtained from Exuma through the Resident Justice, and was found to be descended from good strains.

21. *Corn, Kaffir.*—Kaffir corn is a native of South Africa, and takes its name from the African tribes known as Kaffirs. Seed of Red Kaffir corn, White Kaffir corn, and Jerusalem White Kaffir corn was imported from America for distribution in Long Island and Exuma, and for testing purposes at this station.

22. Experiment plots each 1-16 of an acre were prepared and planted 19th March, 1906, harvested July, 1906. The yields of these three at this station are as follows :—

Red Kaffir corn 860 lbs. per acre.
Jerusalem White Kaffir corn 740 lbs. per acre.
White Kaffir 670 lbs. per acre.

Yield of fodder per acre :—

Red Kaffir corn 6·05 tons.
Jerusalem White Kaffir corn 5·81 tons.
White Kaffir corn 4·33 tons.

23. Under the same conditions the red variety has outyielded the white, both in grain and fodder ; it grows about one foot taller ; it matures its seed earlier, and the head always pushes clear of the upper sheath. It does not shell when handling, and has a more succulent stalk. On the other hand the white variety has a pleasanter taste and produces grain which is not at all astringent, and is therefore better relished by stock.

24. The Resident Justice for Exuma reports, "Mr. Fitzgerald informs me that with ordinary seasons the Kaffir corn sent for trial to this Island will mature in three months, and in his opinion is superior to that now planted (native Guinea corn), and if the yield is good it would be a great advantage to the planter."

25. Unlike Indian corn (maize) all varieties have the very desirable quality of remaining green after the grain matures. The fodder is therefore still in excellent condition when the grain ripens, and when cured will make better feed than if the plant had dried up as the corn plant does.

26. *Cotton.*—Experiment plots of Sea Island cotton were planted September and October, 1905, from seed purchased and supplied by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, and Messrs. Landreth & Co., America, for the purpose of ascertaining the best time for planting, yield under different conditions of soil, &c. The plants grew remarkably well, especially in rich heavy soil, but the best yield of cotton appeared to be from light soil.

27. An apparently new and unknown insect made its appearance in the fields in March, 1906. It was evident as the bolls were nearly developed. They were punctured and soon fell off. Another indication of the presence of the insect in the fields was the flaring and falling of the squares or forms. However, this might have been caused by climatic conditions, namely, the heavy rains in February after a drought. One of the most interesting features of the pest was the fact that the infested spots in the fields spread rapidly. Under ordinary circumstances the presence of the insect would only be observed when the bolls begin to wither and fall off. To prevent the spread of the insect the plants from the three plots were taken up and burned, and the soil sprayed with Bordeaux mixture.

28. Specimens of the insects and bolls were sent to the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, and to the Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture.

29. The following reports were received : From the Bureau of Entomology, Washington. "In the absence of Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of this Bureau, I am answering your letter of 30th March, with accompanying specimens. The insect at work in the cotton bolls which you send, I am pleased to inform you, is not the cotton boll weevil, but an unknown species of pyralid. The specimens were dead when received. If we could obtain living specimens in good condition, we could breed the insect and then be able to write you in regard to its identity. There is, of course, a possibility of its being a pest, but it is more probable that this is a chance find, the insect living normally on some weed which it has exhausted owing to unusual numbers and has then resorted to the cotton for food. These pyralid larvæ usually have a pattern of markings similar to that of the garden web-worm."

30. From the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies. "I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 30th March, and the specimens of damaged cotton bud and bolls which accompanied it. The material has been examined by the entomologist on the staff of this department, who reports that he does not think the damage has been caused by the cotton boll-weevil, but probably by the boll worm *Heliothis* (*armigera*) *absoleta*, and who states that he found one larvæ which is the caterpillar of a moth very similar to, if not identical with, that of the boll worm; but certainly not the grub of the boll weevil."

31. In the case of experiments involving questions of the character of those presented above, final conclusions may not be drawn as the result of one or even several tests. Variations in seasons and other conditions often produce results one year not verifiable the next.

32. Two plots of Sea Island cotton were planted on 31st May, 1906, from fresh seed purchased from the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies.

Plot No. 1. A small area 97 square yards in black soil (provision land) in the school garden.

Plot No. 2. 1-16th of an acre in red or peppery soil, close to the tobacco curing house.

The first picking commenced on 25th October and continued to 3rd December, when the plants were cut down to test the quality of cotton from the second crop.

33. During the growth, which was fairly luxuriant, the plants were not attacked by any insect or other pests, and the condition of the plants was all that could be desired.

34. The total weight of seed cotton reaped from plot No. 2 was 29½ lbs., equal to 472 lbs. per acre.

35. Samples of the cotton were sent to the British Cotton Growing Association, Manchester, England, for their opinion as to quality and value. The following reply was received: "Your letter of 21st November duly to hand, together with the samples of Sea Island cotton grown at your experiment station. I have now pleasure in handing you copy of valuation and report from our expert in Liverpool.

"No. 1. Value 23*d.* to 24*d.* per lb. 'Clean, very bright, staple extra fine and long.'

"No. 2. Value 22*d.* per lb. 'Wanting in fineness, as compared with No. 1, also less fine and lacking in strength.'

"Just now Sea Island cotton is fetching very high prices, owing to the partial failure of the American Sea Island crop. There is no doubt that if you introduce this industry in your islands it will prove a great success."

36. *Mangrove Bark.*—In my report on the Out Islands for 1905, mention was made of the great abundance of mangrove bark growing in the numerous creeks throughout the islands. In order to try and find a market for this commodity, samples of the bark were submitted to English and American leather experts, to report as to the quality for tanning purposes.

The following reports were received:

Leather Industries Department, The University, Leeds, England.

"The bark is of fair strength, though the East Indian mangrove not infrequently runs up to over 40 per cent. of tanning matter, as determined by the hide-powder method; but it is extremely red in colour, which takes off very much from its commercial value. This is shown both by the tanned sample of leather and by the tintometer colour test. I do not think that the bark would pay for importing into this country, though it may no doubt be a useful tanning material on the spot."

From Professor H. R. Proctor, Leather Industries Laboratories, The Yorkshire College, Leeds, England.

"I beg to inform you that the following are the results of analysis of your sample of bark worked. Mangrove from Bahamas, according to the method of the International Association of Leather Modes Chemists.

	Per cent.
Tanning matters absorbed by hide...	25·0
Soluble non-tanning matters	11·2
Insoluble in cold water	51·2
Water	12·6
	100·0

Tintometer colour-measurement of solution containing 0·5 per cent of tanning matter in 1 c.m. cell. Sample tanned in 1 per cent. solution of tanning matter.

Red, 20·5. Yellow, 23·7. Black."

From Ed. Maurer, Esq., New York. "Your favour of 24th January, received also samples of mangrove bark, which I have submitted to some experts here. I learn, however, that the American tanners do not like the mangrove bark, as it contains matters, outside of tannin, which injure the leather, and consequently the bark has not got a foothold here."

37. Large quantities of mangrove are shipped to Germany from East Africa, where the tanners seem to use it. A sample of the bark was sent to Germany, where it was valued 10*s.* per 100 kilos, but the freight from here would be quite an item on the material.

38. *Onions.*—An experiment in growing Bermuda onions to test the yield per acre under up-to-date methods of cultivation was carried out at this station. Seed imported from Teneriffe was sown in prepared beds on the 8th of September, 1905.

1-40th acre plot was prepared and planted on the 19th October, 1905, in rows three inches apart and nine inches between the rows. The crop was lifted for drying and curing on the 5th April, 1906, when they weighed 944 lbs., or 16 tons 17 cwts. 16 lbs. per acre. After being dried for 12 days and cleaned, they weighed 852 lbs., or 15 tons 4 cwts. 32 lbs. per acre—a loss in weight in the drying process of 92 lbs., 3,680 lbs. per acre. Take the crop at the ordinary wholesale selling price of 2*d.* per lb. The 852 lbs. are worth £7 2*s.*, or £284 per acre.

39. *Pimento or Allspice.*—In order to test the quality of the pimento grown in this Island, ten quarts of berries were gathered and cured, a sample of which was sent to Messrs. Gillespie, Bros. & Co., New York, for their opinion and value. They report as follow:—"We were very much interested to see this pimento and to hear that you find it grows well in Nassau. In the sample you sent us there is too large a proportion of soft black berries, and if this pimento had been delivered against contract a considerable allowance would have had to be made in consequence. The blacks which are the ripe berries, clog the grinding machines, and in consequence are considered very undesirable by the manufacturers. The size of the pimento is very good, but the colour would be liked better was a certain greenish tinge absent. The Jamaica pimento, as you know, varies from a red to a dark brown, and the bright red is preferred here. The flavour of your pimento is good, and we should say that the berries contained a large quantity of oil. The value without the blacks is fully up to Jamaica pimento, and we think there would be no difficulty in obtaining the same price."

40. With regard to encouraging this industry, while it would pay to pick the berries from the trees now growing, I would not recommend a great extension of the industry. An average crop in Jamaica is a good deal larger than required by the present consumption, and I do not think there is much chance of any increase in the demand.

41. *Pine-apples.*—Six plots of pine-apples each 1-112th of an acre were planted with slips and suckers in October, 1905, to test the results of different manurial experiments.

Plot No. 1.	1 lb. Sulphate of ammonia.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of potash 90 per cent.
	2½ lb. Fish guano.
	1½ lb. Precipitated phosphate.
	1½ lb. Magnesia carbonate.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of lime.
Plot No. 2.	1½ lb. Precipitated phosphate.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of potash 90 per cent.
	1½ lb. Magnesia carbonate.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of lime.
Plot No. 3.	1 lb. Sulphate of ammonia.
	2 lb. Fish guano.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of potash 90 per cent.
	1½ lb. Magnesia carbonate.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of lime.
Plot No. 4.	1 lb. Sulphate of ammonia.
	2 lb. Fish guano.
	1½ lb. Precipitated phosphate.
	1½ lb. Magnesia carbonate.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of lime.
Plot No. 5.	1½ lb. Sulphate of ammonia.
	2 lb. Fish guano.
	1½ lb. Precipitated phosphate.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of potash 90 per cent.
	1½ lb. Sulphate of lime.
Plot No. 6.	1 lb. Sulphate of ammonia.
	2½ lb. Fish guano.
	1½ lb. Precipitated phosphate
	1½ lb. Sulphate of potash 90 per cent.
	1½ lb. Magnesia carbonate.

These manures were applied in one dressing on 1st February, 1906.

42. The plants in plots numbers 1, 3, 5 grew rapidly and luxuriantly. The plants in plots numbers 2, 4 and 6 were strong, but unhealthy. Unfortunately the storm on the night of the 27th May, 1906, practically destroyed the pine plants, owing to water covering them to a depth of two feet for nearly two days.

43. A further series of six manurial plots are arranged on higher ground, and were planted on the 6th September, 1906, from slips presented by Jerome Pyfrom, Esq., of Governor's Harbour.

44. A collection of pine-apples is being made. The following varieties received from G. L. Lucas, Esq., Jamaica, were planted :

Green Ripley, Red Ripley, Sugar loaf, Red Spanish, Cheese pine, and Abbaka.

45. *Potatoes, Sweet.*—Fourteen varieties of sweet potatoes were planted on 23rd February, 1906, on hills three feet apart, three cuttings being planted on each hill. Five of the varieties were received from the Botanical Department, Jamaica, the other nine varieties were purchased from local growers.

46. These were reaped and weighed on 23rd July, 1906, with the following results :—

1. Mufford (Jamaica)	12,100 lbs. per acre.
2. Vincintonians (Jamaica) ...	9,680 lbs. per acre.
3. White Mary (local)	9,580 lbs. per acre.
4. Yellow (local)	9,540 lbs. per acre.
5. Bain Crust (local)	9,480 lbs. per acre.
6. Fowl (local)	7,260 lbs. per acre.
7. Simvoth (local)	7,260 lbs. per acre.
8. Six Weeks (local)	7,260 lbs. per acre.
9. Trinidad No. 1 (Jamaica) ...	7,260 lbs. per acre.
10. Governor No. 1 (Jamaica) ...	7,260 lbs. per acre.

11. Brass Cannon (Jamaica)	...	...	7,180 lbs. per acre.
12. Pumpkin (local) ...	...	...	4,840 lbs. per acre.
13. Solomon (local) ...	...	...	3,630 lbs. per acre.
14. Rocky Hill (local)	...	...	1,210 lbs. per acre.

47. A glance at the above figures shows which are the best varieties for planting. Two of the Jamaican varieties are worthy of note, *e.g.*, Mufford and Vincintonians. White Mary and Bain Crust (local varieties) deserve notice. Unfortunately Rocky Hill, a local variety which is perhaps the best culinary variety, does not give a large yield.

The above trial was made on poor stony land, and no fertilizers or manures were applied.

48 *Rubber.*—Experiments were made in tapping the rubber vine (*Cryptostegio Grandiflora*) and in the preparation of rubber, during the months of March, April, and October, 1906.

The method of tapping adopted was that in which the vines are bled by making V-shaped incisions at intervals on the stem and branches, and collecting the milk or latex in tin vessels attached under each incision.

49. A sample of prepared rubber was submitted to a rubber expert in New York for report and value. The sample was valued at 4*s.* per lb., and the rubber was said to be of a very fine quality. For a detailed report on the new industry, see "Bulletins" for July and September, 1906.

50. I hope during the year to make experimental trials of the yield by cutting down the young shoots almost to the ground, then crushing the stems between rollers. Recent microscopical examination of the bark shows that the milky juice "latex" is contained in the pith of the young shoots, and in the middle layer of the bark, in a network of minute tubes known as laticiferous vessels. These vessels run for the most part longitudinally in the plant tissues, forming a closed and connected system.

51. I am positive it is well worth the while of all large proprietors to interest themselves in the rubber vine industry. It proves itself to be hardy and easily cultivated ; it can be handled with ease and grows rapidly, produces a first class rubber, second only when well prepared to the best Para rubber.

52. It is quite possible that we may yet see successful planations of Ceara rubber trees established in the Bahamas, and under conditions that may afford a sufficient yield of rubber to render the enterprise remunerative.

53. *Tobacco.*—As stated in my annual report on the experiment station for 1905, a quarter acre plot was prepared and planted with cigar leaf tobacco from Havana seed received from the Botanical Department, Jamaica.

54. The seed was sown in a prepared bed on the 1st September, 1905, germinated on the 11th September ; the first plants were planted out on the 9th November, 1905, 66 days from date of sowing. The plants were moulded from the 1st December. The first ripe plants were cut on the 19th January, 1906, 71 days from date of planting, and 137 days from date of sowing ; the last cutting of ratoons was cut on the 12th April. For further particulars of the experiment see "Bulletins" for July and October.

55. The actual yield of cured tobacco from $\frac{1}{4}$ acre was 195 lbs. carpa, wrapper or binder, 111 lbs. tripa, filler, and 1 lb. fonque, or 1,228 lbs. per acre.

56. The expenditure for labour in cultivation was £1 16*s.* 9*d.*, in curing, stripping and classing £2 3*s.* 9*d.*, or at the rate of £17 17*s.* per acre. I must point out that this cost is high, because it was an educational as well as an experimental process.

57. Samples of the cured tobacco were submitted to the local cigar manufacturers, F. V. Chalmers, Esq., tobacco expert, to the Colonial Office, London, Board of Agriculture, London, Professor W. R. Dunstan, Imperial Institute, London, and to experts in America.

58. Reports to hand are satisfactory and encouraging. Mr. J. L. Saunders says, "I must state that after I manufactured the tobacco into cigars, I found that the aroma was something exquisite as regards to flavour. I have no doubt as to the great success of the cultivation of this tobacco, and I venture to say that the leaves are equally as large and the quality as good as that I generally import from Havana, Cuba."

Mr. Chalmers says, "Your types of Havana seed grown tobacco have had my most careful attention. I have also read your report in 'Bulletin' with much interest. I think the cost of production very low and well worth the doing if only for local purposes. For the first experiment I consider you successful, but I feel it impossible to do the tobacco justice in its present condition ; it is too strong, it is not sufficiently aged, and I think you would do well to try the lighter soil."

Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., New York, report : "We have placed the samples of tobacco before a Cuban expert, who is engaged in the manufacture of cigars in New York. He rolled a cigar from the sample, and smoked it, and reported that of all the tobacco grown from Havana seed that had come under his notice this sample approached most nearly the flavour of the real Havana grown leaf. Besides this, what pleased him most was that when blended with the Havana leaf it did not spoil the flavour. The veins and texture of the leaf are coarser than Havana, but with further cultivation this will no doubt improve."

For further reports see "Bulletins" for July, 1906, and January, 1907. Reports from the Board of Agriculture, London, and the Imperial Institute, London, not yet to hand.

59. The experiment clearly proves that tobacco can be grown and cured in the Bahamas, giving a large percentage of fine leaves of a condition suitable for cigar wrappers. The texture, aroma, colour of the leaf, and burning quality are good.

60. 250 lbs. of the tobacco were exposed for sale by public auction in Nassau in September, 1906 ; the average price realised was 1*s.* 5*d.* per lb., which would give £86 19*s.* 8*d.* per acre. The sale was well attended, and the bidding quite spirited. The quality of the tobacco was very favourably commented upon, and representatives of the principal cigar manufactories seemed eager to secure the several lots.

This sale has demonstrated the fact that tobacco of a good quality can be sold at very remunerative prices.

61. *Nursery.*—The nursery has been stocked with economic and ornamental plants for distribution to the Out-Islands, such as Para rubber, Ceara rubber, Castilloa rubber (from seed purchased in Ceylon), British Honduras mahogany (from seed presented from the Botanical Department, British Honduras), Bahamas rubber vine, native mahogany, crotons, acalphas, &c.

62. *Roads.*—547 yards of carriage drives were made by the aid of prison labour, with stones taken off the station. Unfortunately the work of continuing main carriage drive from the Curator's office to Shirley Street has been delayed owing to the withdrawal of prison labour.

63. *Publications.*—4,800 Bulletins of the Department of Agriculture were printed and distributed principally to the Out-Islands, at a cost of over £40. In the volume for 1906 the following articles appear : Cotton Cultivation, Cotton Experiments, Diseases and Pests attacking Cotton, Cassava Cultivation, Cassava Experiments, Citrus Culture, Onion Cultivation, Tobacco Experiments, Rubber Cultivation, Rubber Experiments, Indian Corn Cultivation and Experiments, Kaffir Corn, Notes, with plan of school garden suitable for the Out-Island schools, Diseases of Plants, Insect Pests, Tropical Fruits, including pine-apples, grape-fruit, oranges, mangoes, Avocado pears, sapodillas, &c., Agricultural Exhibitions, Okra Cultivation, Sweet Potato Experiments, &c.

64. The thanks of the Board of Agriculture are due to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, for the West Indian "Bulletin," Agricultural News, pamphlets and reports of the experiment,

stations, &c. The Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, Jamaica, for the "Bulletins" of the Agricultural Department. The Secretary, Department of Agriculture, United States, America, "Bulletins" and reports of experiment stations. The Secretary of Agriculture, do Estada de Sao Paulo, Brazil, "Bulletins" Department of Agriculture.

65. *Plants and Seeds.*—The thanks of the Board of Agriculture are due to the following contributors of plants and seeds for the experiment station.

Local :

His Excellency the Governor.
Jerome Pyfrom, Esq.
R. S. Johnstone, Esq.

Foreign :

Botanical Department, Jamaica.
Botanical Department, British Honduras.
Sub-tropical Laboratory, Miami.
D. Edwards-Radcliffe, England.
R. M. Green, Esq., British Vice-Consul, Taxpum, Mexico.
R. Tynes Smith, Esq., Rowland Park, Baltimore, U.S.A.
George L. Lucas, Esq., Jamaica.

66. *Distribution of Plants and Seeds.*—The following plants and seeds were distributed free. I have great pleasure in acknowledging the ready and valuable assistance rendered me in the distribution of plants to the Out-Islands by the captains of the mail schooners :—

Tomato plants	14,973
Onion plants...	2,200
Tobacco plants	6,400
Rubber plants	50
Sweet potato cuttings	3,685
Mahogany trees	1,170
Ornamental plants	980

Seed : Guinea corn, Kaffir corn, Sea Island cotton, tobacco and tomato.

67. *Visitors.*—His Excellency Sir William Grey-Wilson visited the station at intervals during the year. We also had the pleasure of seeing numerous visitors from the United States, South America, Canada, and from the Out-Islands, Resident Justices, Assistant Resident Justices, and many of the larger cultivators, who spent some time in the station, studying our work, or the experiments and collections of economic plants.

68. I have been away from Headquarters 67 days during the period under review, visiting the Out-Islands and local plantations. Mr. Leonard Jervis who was appointed from the Hope Experiment Station, Jamaica, as foreman in November, 1905, carried on the work at the experiment station in my absence, and has done very good work throughout the year, materially assisting me in my duties.

Agricultural Educational Work.

69. From the 6th to the 24th August, 1906, lectures and practical demonstrations on agricultural crops were given by me at the Experiment Station, to 16 teachers in charge of schools in the Out-Islands, also seven lectures (during the course) on agricultural subjects were given in the evenings at the Queen's College, from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and were opened by the Hon. Anton Bertram, late Attorney General, who gave an able address to the teachers.

The evening lectures were open to the public. Marked interest was taken in the work, the examination papers submitted at the close of the course being in many cases particularly good. The conduct of the teachers was most satisfactory. The teachers left with the expressed determination to put into practice what they had been taught, and it is expected that the course of

lectures will afford useful object lessons in the schools, and also materially extend up-to-date methods of cultivation in the Out-Islands.

A report on the course was sent to the Board of Education.

I have great pleasure in acknowledging the ready assistance rendered by W. C. B. Johnson, Esq., in conveying the teachers to and from the Experiment Station.

It is evident that facilities should be provided for Agricultural instruction to the school teachers in the Out-Islands, and for that purpose an addition should be made to the present grant to the Board of Education, and that the system of school gardens attached to schools be encouraged as much as possible and on practical lines.

In all Out-Island schools agricultural teaching should be made a compulsory subject.

AGRICULTURE.

70. The figures of the total value of agricultural exports by the Colony for the financial year ending 31st March, 1906, as published by the Blue Book are £75,952.

71. Among the products exported sisal fibre is by far the most important, the total value of shipments being £37,522. Pine-apples come next with £31,489, then grape-fruit and oranges with £3,785.

72. Among exports pine-apples show a falling-off by £4,160, while sisal fibre increased by £7,965, grape-fruit and oranges by £1,023. During the months that have already elapsed of the current financial year, the exports in agriculture have reached a sum considerably in excess of the preceding year, which tends to prove the vitality of the Islands and their steady development.

73. A very considerable portion of the Out-Islands is admirably suited for cattle raising, and practical steps will be placed before the Board of Agriculture to foster this enterprise, with a view to placing the industry on a broader and more productive basis.

74. A great factor in the present smallness of agricultural exports from the Colony is due to cultivators not being able to develop their property for this purpose; there is felt the need of Agricultural Banks, lending money at a moderate rate of interest.

75. That practical steps be taken by the Board of Agriculture to promote all forms of agricultural co-operation, and especially to encourage the formation of Agricultural Societies in the Out-Islands, by means of loans, on approved security of a central co-operative agricultural credit association, and if thought advisable the Central Association might also dispose of the crops at a moderate commission.

76. To increase the cultivation of such industries as sisal by small cultivators, a substantial sum should be placed by Government at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture for the purpose of acquiring land for creating small holdings throughout the Out-Islands. Terms as to loans to small holders to be such as will secure that poverty be no bar to suitable men acquiring ownership of the land they till. I am convinced that, if this policy were wisely and earnestly carried out, the evil of depopulation would be stayed and the tide of immigration to other countries be even turned back in an opposite direction, and the valuable class of peasant proprietors would steadily increase in number until it became not only an important factor in the economy of the Colony, but also an addition to labour on large estates.

77. During the year there was organised in Nassau a new limited company (The Bahamas Fibre and Produce Company, Limited) with a capital of £15,000. In addition to the cultivation of sisal, cassava will be largely taken up, 25 acres are already planted. Tobacco, rubber, and other industries will also be taken up.

78. A fruit and vegetable shipping company (The Harbour Island Fruit and Vegetable Shipping Company, Limited) was organised during the year

at Harbour Island, with the capital of £100. The objects of the company are: To develop the culture of all fruits, vegetables, and other products in the district: to purchase, pack and export all fruits, vegetables and products; to endeavour to find markets for the disposal of all such fruits, vegetables and products.

79. No feature of the recent growth of the Island of New Providence is of greater significance than the astonishing development in pine-apples. The growth of this cultivation is so phenomenal that this Island bids fair to become the most important pine-apple centre in the Bahamas. For the single year 1906, 62¼ acres were set out. The J. S. Johnson Company are re-arranging and making substantial additions to their canning factory in Nassau, which will enable them to cope with the increased cultivation of this fruit. This factory will now be one of the largest, if not the largest, in the West Indies.

In 1905 this firm purchased 162,118 6-12 dozen pine-apples for canning purposes, in 1906 they purchased 242,242 7-12 dozen, an increase of 80,000 dozen over 1905. The only other canning factory working in the Bahamas is situated at Governor's Harbour, and owned by Messrs. Alonzo and Abner Griffin, who used in 1905 80,000 dozen pine-apples for canning purposes. In 1906 they purchased 124,000 dozen, an increase of 44,000 dozen over 1905.

80. The prospects of sisal are most encouraging; sisal cultivation is steadily increasing, 25,000 acres being now under this cultivation. The fibre produced is of good quality and strength, although there are still complaints about short and badly-cleaned fibre. As much as 6 cents per lb. has been obtained during the greater part of the year for hand-cleaned fibre, while 8 and 9 cents are common figures for machine-cleaned.

81 The exports for the financial year 1904–05 were 2,218,825 lbs., valued at £29,557. For 1905–06, 3,040,045 lbs., valued at £37,522, an increase of 831,220 lbs., valued at £7,965. I estimate the quantity of hand-cleaned fibre exported during 1905–06 at 2,016,001 lbs., and machine-cleaned at 1,024,044 lbs.

82. The increase of fibre is noticeable in all the Out-Islands, more especially Long Island, Cat Island, and Exuma.

83. Small cultivators will do well to extend the growth of this valuable industry, which requires no special attention. But they would confer a greater benefit on themselves and on the Colony if more attention was paid to cutting only mature leaf, and to the cleaning of the fibre, the quality of hand-cleaned fibre being somewhat varied, in most cases due to bad cleaning.

84. The subsequent advance in planting sisal will be much more rapid, but in no reasonable view of the circumstances can the export of the Colony (if only first class cleaned fibre be shipped) have a marked effect on the fibre markets for many years to come. It would be difficult to assign a limit to the future advance of the Colony from the growth of sisal fibre.

85. A factor of great importance in connection with the sisal industry is the absence of large fluctuations in the price of the fibre, and the remote probability of there being a serious fall in prices, as the demand for good fibre is almost unlimited.

86. The plantations already established by small cultivators in the Out-Islands are now arriving at such a stage that a successful hand-cleaning fibre machine is a matter of the greatest importance.

87. The pine-apple industry, which takes a leading part among the products of the Colony, is progressing satisfactorily, and the more remunerative prices received during the year will undoubtedly give fresh impetus to the industry. The quantity procured during 1906 was superior to that of 1905, and if anything the prospects for 1907 seem to be encouraging. The fields are in excellent condition, owing to the rainfall in October last. The young fields are also doing well. An article on pine-apples was published in the September "Bulletin," including soil, propagation, planting, fertilizing, and lines of improvement in selection of stock and planting.

88. As mentioned in my last annual report, the crop of grape-fruit and oranges for 1905–06 was fairly good, as shown by the exports, which amounted to £3,785. This year the crop of grape-fruit is short, and a falling off in the export may be expected for this year.

89. While the question of the successful growing of citrus fruit in this Colony may be doubted by some, there is no doubt in the mind of the writer that this Colony could produce as fine fruit as any other competing country, provided the right varieties, right cultivation, and right fertilising to meet the different conditions of soil are dealt with. Our citrus industry lacks the care in handling and shipping which it receives in other fruit-producing centres, and until inspection of shipments is introduced in this Colony, the industry will never succeed.

90. More attention has been paid to cotton cultivation, but I regret that I am unable to report any great success with this industry. Six hundred pounds of seed cotton were shipped from Long Island to the British Cotton Growing Association. The fear of the cotton bug or stainer prevents a large number of cultivators from taking up cotton cultivation in Long Island and Exuma. In fact, in all the cotton-growing districts this fear alone was the cause of the abandonment of the industry.

91. A special "Bulletin" on the cotton industry was published in August, 1906, and distributed free to the cotton-growing districts in the Out-Islands, which contained full information on soil, planting, cultivation, picking, ginning, baling, and manuring, also valuable information reprinted from the "Bulletin," Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, on cotton bugs or stainers, their life history, food plants, damage to cotton, and remedies for their extermination.

92. Arrangements are being made for cotton experiments in the principal Out-Islands; and bounties to cultivators with an acre or more of Sea Island cotton. There being a ready sale in England at good prices, should encourage cultivators to go in for this industry.

A Resident Justice writes: "The cotton industry does not thrive; cannot persuade the people to try it. The fact is, its culture requires of the planter qualifications the average man does not possess. We shall have to wait until the people are better trained along agricultural lines. The farmer needs more skill and energy, and these can only be supplied by training the rising generation."

93. Large numbers of sheep and lambs are fattened up and sent to the Nassau market, where there is always a ready sale for fat animals at good prices. In this way a profitable business has been done during the year, principally from Long Island, Hog Cay, and Little Exuma.

94. Our increasing tourist trade will furnish additional markets for our beef and mutton, which we cannot supply (I hold we can, if we set ourselves to it), therefore more live stock may be kept, and should be kept by general cultivators; for live stock kept in conjunction with mixed cultivations is the basis of good farming here as elsewhere.

95. A good demand was experienced for cocoanuts during the year, the Florida Refining Co. of Jacksonville buying all they could procure. The quantity shipped during the year was 195,000, besides 30,000 in stock ready for shipment. The waste land on the sea coast of the Islands is specially suitable for cocoanut plantations, the roots thriving in the salt soil. The demand for these is great, and is an increasing one, the only requisite for their cultivation being that the young trees for the first two or three years be kept out of the direct rays of the sun, after which time they can be left to take care of themselves.

96. In other branches of Agriculture, such as cassava, rubber, bananas, corn, onions, and minor industries, steady progress is being made, and promising efforts are being made to promote new industries.

97. The Board of Agriculture imported 105 lbs. of Bermuda onion seed from Teneriffe which was distributed in the Out-Islands. Latest reports show that a large acreage is under this crop, and with a favourable season, a large export may be expected.

OUT-ISLANDS.

98. *Long Island.*—During 1906 Long Island continued to fully maintain the position of eminence it has always held among the Out-Islands. The able Resident Justice transferred there has further contributed to the realisation of its natural potentialities.

The actual amount of Sea Island cotton shipped is not great, but it is enough to demonstrate what may be done in the near future.

The general tendency to diversify products is probably the most important feature of the trade situation of Long Island. The exports of agricultural produce in 1906, according to the returns of the Resident Justice, amounted to £13,715.

The cultivation of sisal has developed greatly of late years, and especially during 1905 and 1906. The industry is very prosperous, and prices have not varied much during the year. 295 tons of fibre were exported during the year at a value of £6,000.

The pine-apple industry is reviving and likely to increase. 80,000 dozen were exported valued at £5,000.

The onion industry is developing, and 30 lbs. of such were planted. It is expected that upwards of 600 bushels will be shipped during the months of March and April.

The corn crop is one of the smallest known for many years, and is due to the abnormally dry weather which prevailed just at the time when the crop required rain. Altogether, throughout the year the rainfall was so fitful and scanty that a short crop was only the natural result.

99. Long Island probably is the worst island in the whole group as regards roads.

The road leading from Clarence Town, the principal settlement, to the north end is in many places in a deplorable condition. This is to be regretted, as the development of this island (one of our best agricultural islands) depends on the construction of suitable roads for wheel traffic.

The principal cultivators at Clarence Town are already using carts for the conveyance of their products.

Special attention might be drawn to the fact that agricultural products to the value of over £11,000 were exported to foreign markets during 1906, and with suitable roads this amount will increase.

100. *Eleuthera.*—A considerable increase is noted in the quantity of agricultural products exported in 1906.

The most valuable export trade is that represented by pine-apples.

One of the most promising of recent introductions is the growing of bananas at Gregory Town. There are areas of suitable land close to the settlement, and these are certain to be taken up in the near future. The production is principally consumed in Nassau, the shipments made to the United States realised good prices satisfactory to the growers.

There is great opportunity for the growth of this fruit in Eleuthera as well as in other islands, and the demand is always steady; the industry should be made a very profitable one if the business were taken up with more energy.

The pine-apple fields throughout the Island look well; the most productive and important centres are Rock Sound, Governor's Harbour, and Hatchet Bay.

The cultivators of Tarpum Bay are extending their cultivations at Rock Sound, and Port Howe, district of San Salvador.

Additional canning factories are needed for this industry, one situated at Tarpum Bay would be central for Rock Sound and San Salvador.

More care is necessary in handling the fruit, even if only shipped to Nassau. Much interest is being taken in the formation of an American Company to export grape-fruit and oranges from the Current, Bogue, and Bluff. The growers have already signed a ten years' contract to supply fruit at a fixed price. The general prosperity of the Island continues.

101. *Harbour Island.*—The principal items of export are the various vegetable products of the settlement.

There is abundance of uncultivated land well adapted to vegetable growing, but it lies unused and only requires energy to yield handsome returns. There are lots of vegetables cultivated, but they are almost altogether for domestic use. Harbour Island might do much in this line, much more than is being done at present, if the business were taken up with energy.

The onion industry which had the appearance of a good return, has of late suffered from drought and high winds. Much interest is being taken in the new limited company to export the agricultural produce of the Island to foreign markets.

102. *Exuma.*—The year 1906 was an exceedingly prosperous one for Exuma. The exports in agricultural products for 1905 were valued at £1,753 18*s.*, in 1906 they amounted to £3,343 19*s.* 10*d.*, an increase of £1,590 1*s.* 10*d.*

The chief agricultural products considerably increased in volume and improved in quality.

Sisal continues to make steady progress, and promising efforts are being made to cultivate cotton.

Exuma is persistent in its policy of road making; how thoroughly this work is being carried out under the supervision of the Resident Justice is not generally known.

103. *Abaco.*—The general progress made in this Island in 1906 is so far satisfactory. Favourable prices ruling in America for Bermuda onions stimulated cultivators at Green Turtle Cay in this industry. Reports indicate that with favourable weather the returns will be satisfactory.

Sisal is the principal industry. Green Turtle Cay district exported 550,375 lbs. of sisal, valued at £5,159, and pine-apples to the value of £30.

104. *Biminis.*—From such information as is available, it is evident that in spite of the hurricane which passed over this Island on the 18th October, 1906, appreciable progress is being made.

105. *San Salvador.*—The population of this Island is largely engaged in agriculture; the chief products are pine-apples and sisal.

The value of the agricultural articles exported during the year from the Bight and districts under the Resident Justice were sisal £9,269, pine-apples £4,118, sweet potatoes £26.

The agricultural condition of the Island is fairly good. A large addition to the acreage of pine-apples and sisal took place during the year; the prospect for the winter harvest of crops is good.

106. *Andros.*—From such statistics as are available it is evident that Andros, in spite of the adverse conditions, made appreciable progress.

The sisal industry is a growing one. Among minor industries which are making satisfactory progress in the Island is that of cassava.

107. *Grand Bahama.*—While the profits from grape-fruit and oranges of late years have been comparatively small, the situation latterly seems to be improving, due in most part to economical methods of cultivation.

Great efforts were made by the Assistant Resident Justice to revive cotton cultivation, though the results obtained have not, perhaps, been as satisfactory as might be desired, yet the plantations have escaped the invasion of the bugs or cotton stainers.

General Remarks.

108. The islands on the whole have benefited by the interest aroused by the Department of Agriculture, and there can be no doubt that more practical encouragement is being extended to proposals for developing the natural resources of the Colony.

109. The exports of the islands, though satisfactory, are still out of proportion to their resources, which offer a vast field for enterprise and the employment of capital.

Wm. M. Cunningham,
Curator.

Botanic Station,
31st January, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ...	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 575.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906–7, *see* No. 543.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
September, 1908.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, TWEEDDALE COURT, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1908.

[Cd. 3729-39.] *Price 3d.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
FINANCIAL	4
TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES	9
LEGISLATION	20
EDUCATION	21
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	23
JUDICIAL STATISTICS	24
VITAL STATISTICS	26
POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS	27
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	29
SKETCH MAP.	

No. 575.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1906–7, *see* No. 543.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Nassau,
16th July, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1907-8, together with the Colonial Secretary's Report thereon.

2. A sketch map of the Colony is attached.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 24282 9/08 D & S 5 33428

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1907-8.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The Revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1908, was £89,694, as compared with £79,058 in 1906-7, or £11,987 more than the average annual revenue of the preceding five years.

2. The following are the details :—

Heads of Revenue.	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	65,987	75,144	9,157	—
2. Port Dues, &c.	433	593	160	—
3. Licences and Internal Revenue...	4,606	3,734	—	872
4. Fees and Reimbursements ...	2,104	2,787	683	—
5. Post and Telegraphs	4,937	5,023	86	—
6. Rents	320	278	—	42
7. Widows and Orphans	111	107	—	4
8. Miscellaneous	5	29	24	—
9. Interest	553	1,071	518	—
10. Land Sales	2	—	—	2
11. Excise Duty	—	10	10	—
12. Electric Light Fund	—	918	918	—
Totals	79,058	89,694	11,556	920

Net increase, £10,636.

The sale of Crown Lands is not included in this Return.

3. The expenditure amounted to £79,790 as against £71,087 in 1906-7 or an increase of £8,703, and was £6,771 more than the average annual expenditure of the preceding five years.

4. The following are the details :—

Service.	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Public Debt Charges	6,486	6,543	57	—
2. Pensions	3,791	3,460	—	331
3. House of Assembly	1,157	1,147	—	10
4. Legislative Council	66	124	58	—
5. Governor	1,360	1,226	—	134
6. Colonial Secretary	924	985	61	—
Carried forward	13,784	13,485	176	475

Expenditure—cont.

Service.	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward... ...	13,784	13,485	176	475
7. Receiver General	3,057	3,049	--	8
8. Judicial	6,347	6,626	279	—
9. Registrar	558	559	1	—
10. Constabulary and Police... ...	5,649	5,802	153	—
11. Fire	587	408	—	179
12. Surveyor-General...	462	489	27	—
13. Audit	360	360	—	—
14. Post Office...	6,796	8,403	1,607	—
15. Telegraphs and Telephones ...	1,301	1,335	34	—
16. Ecclesiastical	115	—	—	115
17. Education	5,107	5,356	249	—
18. Public Libraries	455	45[illegible]	—	1
19. Port and Marine	1,767	1,800	33	—
20. Medical	724	610	—	114
21. Charitable Institutions	7,130	8,393	1,263	—
22. Prisons	1,779	1,912	133	—
23. Public Works	11,619	16,740	5,121	—
24. Miscellaneous	2,585	2,081	—	504
25. Board of Agriculture	600	700	100	—
26. Marine Products Board	305	300	—	5
27. Electric Light Construction ...	—	47	47	—
28. „ „ Fund	—	777	777	—
Investment on account of surplus Fund.	—	104	104	—
Total	71,087	79,790	10,104	1,401

Net increase, £8,703.

5. The surplus for the year was £9,904, and the total surplus on the 31st March, 1908, amounted to £29,309 (exclusive of Hotel Fund, £10,593).

6. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue (+) or Expenditure (—).
	£	£	£
1903-4	71,377	74,038	— 2,661
1904-5	71,112	69,825	+ 1,287
1905-6	77,294	70,256	+ 7,038
1906-7	79,058	71,087	+ 7,971
1907-8	89,694	79,790	+ 9,904

7. The cause of the large increase in customs receipts in 1907-8 is stated by the Receiver-General to be the larger importations and increased values of goods imported that are charged with an *ad valorem* duty.

8. The only other item of revenue that need be referred to is "licences, &c.," which shows a decrease of £872. This is merely nominal as under the Electric Light Act receipts from the House Property Tax in New Providence are now credited to the Electric Light Fund.

9. The increase in expenditure amounting to £8,703 is due mainly to Post Office, which shows an excess of £1,607 caused by part of a subsidy due in 1906-7 having been paid in 1907-8, by an increase of staff and larger expenditure on out-island mail subsidies; also to public works, which accounts for an increase of £5,121. The Colony, in view of its improved revenue, felt justified in carrying out more public works than usual both in New Providence and in the out-islands.

Assets and Liabilities.

10. The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st March, 1908, are given in the following table:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Cash in Colonial Chest	—		
„ at out-islands and in transit	702	11	6
„ in hands of Crown Agents	338	19	8
„ in transit to Crown Agents	362	2	4
Surplus Funds invested	4,821	17	0
Hotel Fund Investments	10,593	[illegible]	0
Cash lent at interest by Crown Agents	5,500	0	0
Savings Bank, Invested to 30th June, 1907, £31,790 16s. 2d., costing ...	30,[illegible]	12	2
„ Income Tax	88	3	5
„ Balance Cash—	£	s.	d.
In office	6	10	10
In Bank	212	0	5
	218	11	3
Cable Repair Fund—Invested, £7,150 7s. 9d.* ...			
Customs Bonds maturing	1,774	19	0
Miscellaneous Advances	291	7	8
Telephone Loan—Advance by Treasury under Law 22 of 1906	1,909	6	0
Total	77,531	11	0

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
On Current Account—						
Overdrawn on 31st March, 1908	262	9	4			
Salaries	11	14	8			
Pensions	481	7	4			
Miscellaneous	1,010	18	9			
				1,766	10	1
Savings Bank—Due to depositors (including interest to 30th June, 1907)				29,749	18	2
„ Suspense account				4	0	0
„ Deposits on account of labourers' wages				319	0	6
Excess of assets over liabilities				45,692	2	3
Total				77,531	11	0

* To this Fund Colony contributes £700 a year up to 1911 inclusive. In 1912 Government and Contractors divide whatever sum stands to credit of Fund.

Public Debt.

11. The following is a statement of the Public Debt :—

Debts Outstanding.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.	Provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and Enactments by which it is made.	Amount of Original Debt.	Amount Repaid or held for Repayment.	Remarks.
£ s. d. 22,386 4 0	Various persons in debentures of £100.	£4 10s per cent per annum paid half-yearly.	In 1885. The failure of the Nassau Public Bank.	Principal and Interest secured by 48 & 49 Vict., c. 24, which provides that so long as any debentures remain outstanding the sum of £1,925 shall be remitted from General Revenue annually to Crown Agents who shall pay the interest and other charges, and (1) either invest the remainder by way of Sinking Fund, or, (2) purchase debentures in the open market, or, (3) reduce the debt by the annual drawing of as many debentures as the balance will allow.	£ s. d. 35,000 0 0	£ s. d. 12,613 16 0	Eight debentures of £100 each were drawn for payment by the Crown Agents. The eighteenth annual drawing took place on 1st August, 1907. Bonds redeemed, £12,100 ; Cash with Crown Agents, £513 16s. ; Total £12,613 16s.
27,455 18 6	Various persons in debentures of £ s. d 100 0 0 50 0 0 150 0 0 2,000 0 0 1,000 0 0 200 0 0 500 0 0 175 0 0 70 0 0 175 13 6 29 0 0 125 0 0 126 6 8	£4 per cent. per annum paid quarterly.	In 1888. For redeeming outstanding debentures.	51 Vict., c. 9, charged on the General Revenue Debentures redeemable 35 years after date of issue. A Sinking Fund was established by 63 Vict., c. 7, to which a first contribution was made of £10,000 from Surplus Funds, and it is provided that £900 be annually added.	48,126 0 2	20,670 1 8	Sinking Fund to 31st March, 1907, £20,670 1s. 8d.
16,838 4 2	Various persons in debentures of £100 £500	£4 per cent. per annum paid quarterly.	January, 1892. Telegraph cable between Bahamas and Florida.	55 Vict., c. 1, charged on General Revenue Debentures redeemable 30 years after date of issue, £630 per annum to be added to Sinking Fund.	30,000 0 0	13,161 15 10	Sinking Fund to 31st March, 1907, £13,161 15s. 10d.
£66,680 6 8					£113,126 0 2	£46,445 13 6	

12. The following shows the excess of assets over liabilities for the past five years :—

	£	s.	d.
Excess of Assets on 31st March, 1904	15,448	0	3
" " " " 1905	16,570	5	11
" " " " 1906	27,092	0	2
" " " " 1907	35,140	15	1
" " " " 1908	45,692	2	3

Debt excluded.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

13. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1907, are valued at £372,937 including £5,187 specie, as against £329,115 including £15,729 specie in 1906 and £308,544 including £16,591 in 1905.

The following table shows whence they came :—

Country.	Amount, 1906.	Amount, 1907.
	£	£
From the United Kingdom	63,050°	93,631‡
" the United States	250,288†	253,367§
" Canada	3,050	8,385
" British West Indies	5,316	10,237
" Foreign Countries other than the United States.	7,411	7,317
Total	329,115	372,937

° Including £8,080 specie. † Including £7,649 specie.*
‡ Including £2,020 specie. § Including £3,167 specie.

* By printer's error returned in Report for 1906-7, paragraph 10, at £2,591.

14. But inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in this Colony these figures are not to be relied upon. There is no direct communication with the United Kingdom, and consequently many goods really imported from that country are classified as if imported from the United States where they are transhipped. It is only when merchants specially enter their goods as having been imported from the United Kingdom that they are so classified.

15. The values of the principal articles imported as compared with the previous year were :—

Articles.	Value 1906.	Value 1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alcoholic liquors—	£	£	£	£
Alcohol	20	93	73	—
Ale, cider, porter	2,493	2,320	—	173
Brandy	102	176	74	—
Gin...	2,520	4,218	1,698	—
Rum	2,247	4,026	1,779	—
Whiskey	1,950	1,775	—	175
Wines	1,115	1,612	497	—
Automobiles	739	2,248	1,509	—
Bicycles	455	396	—	59
Butter and cheese	8,018	8,774	756	—
Cattle...	1,605	2,304	699	—
Coffee...	2,966	2,535	—	431
Corn, cornmeal, and hominy	7,824	15,979	8,155	—
Coal	1,317	2,608	1,291	—
Fertilisers	918	1,631	713	—
Flour	35,572	43,936	8,364	—
Gasoline	290	443	153	—
Hay, oats, and bran... ...	4,237	6,293	2,056	—
Horses	54	243	189	—
Ice	1,297	1,779	482	—
Lard	4,564	7,131	2,567	—
Lumber and shingles / Laths and mahogany	6,115	8,949	2,834	—
Machinery	4,885	11,026	6,141	—
Meat, fresh	4,786	4,180	—	606
Meat, salt	11,116	13,223	2,107	—
Oil, kerosene	2,163	4,354	2,191	—
*Potatoes and onions ...	1,336	2,237	901	—
Rice	10,028	13,416	3,388	—
Rope and canvas	7,151	7,152	1	—
Soap	1,678	3,425	1,747	—
Sugars	14,350	12,916	—	1,434
Steam launches	—	857	857	—
Tea	1,049	797	—	252
Tobacco and cigars	4,313	6,380	2,067	—
Unenumerated—				
Earthenware, glassware, furniture.	58,159	38,512	—	19,647
Hardware, tinware ...	14,504	21,966	7,462	—
Preserved meat, fish ...	26,066	22,026	—	4,040
Textile fabrics	50,930	63,809	12,879	—
All other articles	14,454	22,005	7,551	—
	313,386	367,750	81,181	26,817
Specie...	15,729	5,187	—	10,542
Totals	329,115	372,937	43,822	—

* For "tomatoes" in Report for 1906-7, paragraph 11, should be read "potatoes."

16. The total export[illegible] he year ended the 31st December, 1907, were valued £238,232 (including £7,929 specie)

£226,819 represented the produce of the Colony. The figures in 1906 were £221,925 (including £9,459 specie) and £210,775.

17. The following table gives the export of the main articles of Colonial produce :—

Article.	Exports, 1906.		Exports, 1907.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Cotton ... ... Lbs.	13,105	274	8,568	234
Fruit :—				
Cocoanuts ... ... No.	297,850	710	316,250	955
Grape-fruit ... ... „	430,134	1,837	707,975	3,170
Oranges ... ... „	567,269	783	1,599,860	3,007
Pineapple, fresh ... Doz.	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242
„ preserved, Cases	117,196	19,090	68,349	13,579
Lumber, &c. :—				
Bark... ... ... Lbs.	93,465	1,303	154,883	2,099
Hardwood ... ... Tons	475	732	677	1,485
Lumber ... ... Feet	1,162,121	5,498	875,926	4,693
Shingles ... ... No.	89,400	103	—	—
Salt ... ... Bshls.	96	2	7,745	85
Shells, conchs ... ... No.	708,465	1,669	152,222	1,928
„ turtle ... ... Lbs.	8,720	9,600	9,942	13,100
Sisal ... ... „	3,867,034	40,140	4,306,082	46,669
Sponge ... ... „	1,528,802	115,528	1,660,677	129,699

18. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries :—

Country.	1906.	1907.
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	16,499	26,672
Canada	2,018	6,543
Jamaica	1,028	60
United States	126,381	125,760
Other Foreign Countries	64,795	67,784
Total ...	210,775	226,819

19. The increased value of the exports to the United Kingdom is accounted for by sponge the value of which was £5,471 more than in 1906, turtle shell £3,623, bark and hard-woods £338, and sisal (of which there was no export to England in 1906) £308.

20. The increase to Canada is due to increased exports of fruit to the extent of some £4,000, and sponge (of which there was no export to Canada in 1906) £1,638.

21. I subjoin a return of the value of imports and exports for the past five years :—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1903	294,590	210,493	505,083
1904	297,241	194,936	492,177
1905	308,544	222,905	531,449
1906	329,115	221,925	551,040
1907	372,937	238,232	611,169

(B.) Mines and Quarries, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

22. There are no mines. Limestone for building is found in most of the larger islands, valued at the quarry at 10*d.* per cubic foot.

Pineapple Canning Factories.

23. The export of preserved pineapples was 68,349 cases, as compared with 117,196 cases in 1906, valued at £13,579 and £19,090 respectively.

In 1907 the J. S. Johnson Company purchased 180,421 dozen pineapples for canning purposes as against 242,242 dozen in 1906, a decrease of 61,821 dozen. The Governor's Harbour factory also shows a decrease from the previous year.

The Curator reports that the decrease is owing to the damage done to the crops by the long drought during the latter end of 1906 and spring of 1907. The prospects for 1908 crops seem to be more encouraging.

The decrease in the pineapple industry has been discouraging though the causes of failure have been special rather than general and they should not be in any way a permanent deterrent.

Sisal Factories.

24. There were five factories in New Providence. The J. S. Johnson Company have two factories with two cleaning machines. 1,500 acres are planted, and the output was 105 tons.

The Bahamas Fibre and Produce Company have three factories and about 1,400 acres. One Todd and one Villamer machine are in use, and the output was about 80 tons.

At Little Abaco the Sisal Fibre Company has two cleaning machines ; one Todd and one Terrorella machine are in use ; about 5,000 acres are planted and thirteen miles of railroad laid. The output was 117 tons or 648 bales.

At Whale Cay, Berry Islands, there is one factory with one Todd cleaning machine and about 250 acres.

Messrs. R. H. Sawyer and Company have a factory at Abaco. At San Salvador there are two factories with three cleaning machines, which, however, were not in operation. These plantations are nearly exhausted.

There are two factories at Inagua, one only in operation.

Lumber Factories.

25. At the American Lumber Works at Wilson City, Abaco, a new mill is under construction which is calculated to saw 75,000 feet per diem. A number of fine houses have been built as well as one of the largest stores in the Bahamas.

The Company sawed 3,000,000 feet during 1907, and manufactured 350,000 shingles.

The Company has concessions at Andros and Grand Bahama also, but has not begun operations in these Islands.

The negotiations for the lease to another Company of a tract of land adjoining the Abaco estate referred to in my last report fell through.

Sponging, &c.

26. The Marine Products Board report that the regulations for the protection of the sponge beds in the Bight of Abaco and Hog Cay Channel, Exuma, have been successful.

Rules for the protection of conchs, fish, and turtle have been issued.

The sponge trade is depressed and the outlook discouraging.

A comparative Return of Sponge exported during the past five years is annexed :—

Comparative Return of Sponge Exported, 1903–1907.

Country to which exported.	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs	£
United Kingdom...	118,785	8,619	100,827	8,251	95,499	5,387	175,938	10,258	170,120	15,729
Canada	2,631	257	781	214	1,457	420	—	—	10,895	1,638
United States of America ...	963,397	58,890	790,652	53,287	864,658	60,548	783,386	45,296	910,603	50,415
France	72,289	8,553	88,957	10,345	100,715	11,956	140,253	21,161	122,358	20,180
Holland	161,605	11,892	128,359	9,902	158,488	14,519	111,074	12,372	111,697	13,140
Germany	169,145	13,991	292,659	23,235	254,494	20,096	307,173	26,206	320,968	28,198
Russia	27,774	2,192	5,723	484	10,441	666	1,113	94	—	—
Italy	—	—	—	—	4,396	125	9,863	140	14,036	399
Totals	1,515,626	104,394	1,407,958	105,718	1,490,148	113,753	1,528,800	115,527	1,660,677	129,699

(C.) Agricultural Industries.

Sisal.

27. The most important industry is the raising of sisal fibre. The estimated area under cultivation is considerably over 25,000 acres. The output exceeds that of previous years and the acreage is increasing.

The Curator reports that a good demand was experienced for fibre from the beginning of the year up to the end of October and good prices were obtainable. At the end of October a financial crisis set in in America, with the result that prices for fibre fell away considerably ; at present the prices are about two cents per pound less than at the beginning of the year.

Complaints of the gathering of immature and of badly-cleaned fibre continue.

Grape-fruit.

28. 707,975 were exported as against 430,134 in 1906 and 564,061 in 1905, with values respectively of £3,670, £1,837, and £2,397.

Oranges.

29. The demand for grape-fruit and oranges has increased considerably and it has been put into new markets ; that should be a great help to the shippers in the future. 1,599,860 were exported, valued at £3,007.

A Canadian Fruit and Vegetable Company was organized last year. An establishment of this kind is bound to assist materially in restoring the reputation of the citrus fruits of the Colony. No local capital is engaged in the venture. The enterprise is financed by Canadian capitalists.

Cocoanuts.

30. A good demand was experienced for cocoanuts during the year ; 316,250 were exported at a value of £955. The demand for these is increasing. The Curator reports that the crop is reasonably certain in many districts of the Colony, and it would seem that the growing of cocoanuts is a profitable industry.

31. Comparative Returns of Exports of Sisal, Pineapples (fresh and preserved), Grape-fruit, Oranges, and Cocoanuts for the past five years are annexed :—

Comparative Return of Sisal Exported, 1903–1907.

Country to which exported.	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
United Kingdom	25,374	396	—	—	131,895	1,625	—	—	26,598	308
United States	3,197,385	38,409	2,218,825	29,557	2,908,950	35,897	3,722,733	38,702	4,279,484	46,361
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	144,301	1,438	—	—
Totals	3,222,759	38,805	2,218,825	29,557	3,040,845	37,522	3,867,034	40,140	4,306,082	46,669

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Fresh) Exported, 1903–1907.

	Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.	
United States	475,672	34,272	228,608	22,616	197,324	19,759	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242
Canada	6,021	199	—	—	72	7	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	—	—	150	10	—	—	—	—
Totals	481,693	34,471	228,608	22,616	197,546	19,776	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Preserved) Exported, 1903–1907.

	No. of cases.		No. of cases.		No. of cases.		No. of cases.		No. of cases.	
United States	22,242	5,778	62,900	12,580	58,499	10,640	116,010	18,736	61,984	12,532
Canada	6,600	1,804	6	2	6,032	1,058	1,186	354	6,365	1,047
United Kingdom	—	—	2,178	436	25	5	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	75	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	—	—	50	10	—	—	—	—
Totals	28,842	7,582	65,159	13,033	64,606	11,713	117,196	19,090	68,349	13,579

Comparative Return of Grape-fruit Exported, 1903–1907.

	No.		No.		No.		No.		No.	
United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	10,000	46	7,500	31	938	4
Canada	—	—	—	—	56,588	192	6,988	58	293,800	1,970
United States	357,308	1,992	231,096	1,374	467,473	2,159	415,646	1,748	413,237	1,696
Totals	357,308	1,992	231,096	1,374	534,061	2,397	430,134	1,837	707,975	3,670

Comparative Return of Oranges Exported, 1903–1907.

United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	4,500	5	—	—	3,000	3
Canada	—	—	—	—	1,086,000	887	82,000	148	1,089,400	2,369
United States	699,712	922	272,955	338	615,818	496	485,269	635	507,460	635
Totals	699,712	922	272,955	338	1,706,318	1,388	567,269	783	1,599,860	3,007

Comparative Return of Cocoanuts Exported, 1903–1907.

United States	3,000	12	1,380	6	15,950	34	297,850	710	316,250	955
Totals	3,000	12	1,380	6	15 950	34	297,850	710	316,250	955

Botanic Station.

32. It is shown by the Curator's report that considerable progress has been made and satisfactory work done at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Nassau. The report is very full and contains many points of interest. The experiments with Sea Island cotton in the plots at the station and in the out-islands are of great interest and value. A number of small farmers are reported to have taken up the industry.

Agricultural efforts have been stimulated by the holding in Nassau of an Agricultural Exhibition for the out-islands, bringing together in competition the principal commercial and food products of the Colony.

By an Act passed during the recent session of the House of Assembly the grant to the Board of Agriculture has been increased from £600 to £1,000 a year.

(D.) Land Grants.

33. The total number of acres granted is put at 368,773, and the total remaining ungranted at 1,766,777. The total number of acres of Crown land sold in 1907 was 646 as against 167 in 1906.

Squatting is prevalent.

Many lands granted two or three years ago remain unsurveyed on account of want of staff.

(E.) Shipping.

34. The following return gives the number and tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared in 1907 as compared with 1906 :—

—	1906.				1907.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	—	—	—	—	1	248	1	248
United States ...	125	12,720	110	11,424	119	11,421	115	12,344
British West Indies	61	1,805	84	3,076	61	2,282	76	1,950
Cuba	16	1,310	16	1,317	15	1,590	15	1,355
Hayti	10	198	7	149	17	193	7	99
Central America ...	—	—	3	447	—	—	—	—
Mexico	1	90	3	390	—	—	—	—
Porto Rico ...	1	309	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	1	298	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish West Indies	—	—	2	21	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	215	16,730	225	16,824	213	15,734	214	15,996

35. The following is a similar return for steam vessels :—

—	1906.				1907.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	6	14,844	5	12,360	—	—	2	368
United States ...	240	425,686	242	420,713	249	439,595	246	488,833
British West Indies	59	126,861	92	201,059	69	176,852	98	233,313
South America ...	35	77,886	15	33,901	26	61,042	18	40,060
Hayti	10	15,438	52	80,138	6	9,416	51	81,216
Cuba	26	47,824	29	58,413	12	30,606	26	60,438
Mexico	9	18,509	15	30,405	16	36,420	16	40,772
Danish West Indies	1	2,277	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Honduras ...	2	4,778	3	7,167	—	—	1	1,277
U. S. Colombia ...	55	91,212	—	—	70	114,161	—	—
Canada	10	19,031	1	1,827	12	27,009	1	1,969
Totals ...	453	844,346	454	845,983	460	949,101	459	948,246

36. The number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared during 1907, distinguishing nationalities, are given in the following return :—

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	179	10,428	180	10,690	42	85,038	44	87,937
American	29	5,202	29	5,202	97	197,971	98	199,139
Haytian	4	77	4	77	—	—	—	—
Cuban	1	27	1	27	1	1,106	1	1,106
German	—	—	—	—	313	658,661	310	653,739
Norwegian ...	—	—	—	—	5	5,887	5	5,887
Swedish	—	—	—	—	1	438	1	438
Totals ...	213	15,734	214	15,996	460	949,101	459	948,246
Totals in 1906 ...	215	16,730	225	16,824	453	844,346	454	845,983

37. The number of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was :—

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1903	14	557
1904	18	299
1905	5	77
1906	13	229
1907	11	190

A large schooner of over 300 tons was also under construction at Harbour Island.

III.—LEGISLATION.

38. Thirty-nine Acts were assented to during the session of 1908, the most important of which are :—

(1.) The Out-island Administration Act.
(2.) The Magistrates (Amendment) Act.
(3.) The Immigrant Paupers (Prevention) Act.
(4.) The Education Act.
(5.) The Marriage Act.
(6.) The Motor Car Act.
(7.) The Tariff Act.

(1.) This is by far the most important Act of the session. It re-organises the out-island administration of the Colony. It substitutes Commissioners for Resident Justices and Assistant-Resident Justices, and vests in such Commissioners all powers heretofore enjoyed by a Resident Justice. The service is graded into divisions and the salaries are higher than those formerly paid to Resident Justices. The compulsory retiring age has been fixed at 60 years. The Act also provides for the appointment of three cadets.

(2.) This Act greatly increases the civil and criminal jurisdiction of magistrates and is particularly intended to facilitate the administration of justice in the out-islands. The Act carries out some of the recommendations of the 1905 Out-island Commission.

(3.) This Act is based on a Barbados Act and is intended to prevent the Colony being saddled with the burden of indigent aliens and stowaways.

(4.) This Act raises the compulsory attendance age to 14 years and consolidates and amends the existing law. It also incorporates the Board and increases the grant.

(5.) This Act brings the Colony into line with Jamaica, Grenada, and British Honduras and requires all marriage officers to be registered.

(6.) This Act regulates the law relating to motor cars and follows the Jamaica law on the subject.

(7.) This Act generally improves the law of the Colony on the subject of customs and provides a new classified tariff which, however, contains no variation of great importance.

39. To a Bill passed by the Legislature to abolish duties of probate the Governor refused his assent.

40. The Electric Light Act of 1907 was amended by increasing the vote for electric light and energy for Nassau from £12,000 to £15,500.

41. A Bill for facilitating the acquisition of land for public purposes was unfortunately rejected by the House of Assembly.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary.

42. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools They do not include private and denominational schools :—

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-aid Schools.				Schools Aided by Grant of Material only.				Total.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average roll.	Average attendance.
1905	44	7,204	6,089	4,509	12	1,077	928	571	5	253	232	186	61	8,534	7,249	5,266
1906	46	7,314	6,154	4,592	16	1,199	1,042	632	—	—	—	—	62	8,513	7,196	5,224
1907	46	7,151	6,026	4,498	16	1,295	1,199	741	—	—	—	—	62	8,446	7,225	5,239

43. The teaching staff under the Board was as follows :—

—	1905.	1906.	1907.
Principal teachers ...	44	46	46
Assistant teachers ...	6	8	7
Pupil teachers	6	5	4
Monitors...	112	132	127
Sewing teachers	7	9	9
Students in training ...	3	3	3
Employed in aided schools	13	16	16
Total ...	191	219	212

44. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table :—

—	1905.			1906.			1907.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools	3,189	2,900	6,089	3,232	2,928	6,160	3,160	2,866	6,026
Aided Private Schools ..	493	435	928	576	489	1,065	680	519	1,199
Church of England ..	806	886	1,692	747	832	1,579	728	813	1,541
Roman Catholic	189	302	491	211	268	479	209	283	492
Private Schools	135	154	289	138	188	326	93	88	181
Wesleyan Schools.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	34	53
Total	4,812	4,677	9,489	4,904	4,705	9,609	4,889	4,603	9,492

45. The average cost per child was £1, as against 19*s.* 9*d.* in 1906 and 19*s.* 11*d.* in 1905.

46. In New Providence 212 cases (as against 154 in 1906) were reported under the compulsory attendance section of the Act. 8 were not tried, 77 dismissed, 38 orders made, 89 fined.

In the out-islands 610 cases were reported (as against 675 in 1906). 70 were not tried, 185 were dismissed, 197 orders made, 151 fined, 7 truants.

47. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board, there were 27 maintained by the Church of England, 6 of which were in New Providence. Total roll 1,541, average roll 847.

There were also 4 Roman Catholic Schools as against 3 in 1906. Total roll 534 (479 in 1906), and 13 private schools (16 in 1906); roll 181 (326 in 1906).

48. By an Act passed during the recent session the annual vote to the Board of Education has been increased from £5,000 to £6,000 a year, and the school age has been raised from 13 to 14.

(B.) Secondary Education.

49. There is yet no State provision for secondary education.

50. Private organizations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows :—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College	27	37	64
Nassau Grammar School	14	—	14
St. Francis Xavier's Academy	15	27	42
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera) ...	12	11	23
Total	68	75	143

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals. (B.) Asylums. (C.) Poorhouse.

51. During the year the new Act came into force under which the Resident Surgeon was relieved of his non-professional duties, and a lay superintendent was appointed, and the working of the institution under the new system was satisfactory.

The number of inmates on the 1st January, 1907, was :—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	38	22	60
Victoria Infirmary	14	17	31
Lunatic Asylum	18	15	33
Leper Asylum	8	1	9
Totals	78	55	133

533 patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 666, of whom 253 were discharged recovered, 102 relieved, 82 discharged not improved, and 124 died.

At the close of the year 105 remained, distributed as follows :—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	29	19	48
Victoria Infirmary	11	12	23
Lunatic Asylum	15	15	30
Leper Asylum	3	1	4
Totals	58	47	105

52. The assistant surgeon visited 395 cases at their homes.

53. The affairs of the institution are administered by a Board of Commissioners, to whom a sum of £6,000 is annually granted.

54. By an Act passed during the recent session the name of "New Providence Asylum" which has been attached to this institution for generations has been changed to the more appropriate one of "Bahamas General Hospital."

(D.) Savings Bank.

55. The number of depositors on the 30th June, 1907 (the end of the savings bank's year), was 2,151 ; on the 30th June, 1906, 1,971 ; on the 30th June, 1905, 1,864.

The deposits and withdrawals were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1905	3,751	10,447	2,216	7,272
1906	3,858	9,791	2,528	8,580
1907	4,606	11,927	2,723	8,002

The balance due to depositors was, on the 30th June, 1907, £29,750 as against £25,196 on the 30th June, 1906.

56. The assets and liabilities were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June	Assets.	Excess of Assets over Liabilities.
	£	£
1905	24,465	1,034
1906	26,448	1,252
1907	31,237	1,483

The average amount to the credit of each account on the 30th June, 1907, was £16 3*s.* 2*d.* as against £15 3*s.* 7*d.* on the 30th June, 1906.

57. In the first year of the establishment of the Savings Bank there were 344 depositors, £3,055 deposits, and £379 withdrawals.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

58. The strength of the force on the 1st January, 1908, was 105.

59. The Commandant reports that the number of persons prosecuted by the Police in New Providence was 796 of whom 345 were reported and 451 arrested. In 1906 the number was 834.

There were prosecuted *inter alia*—

173 cases of profane language in public.
74 „ „ drunkenness in public.
45 „ „ fighting in public.
50 „ „ assault.

71 cases of breach of Street Traffic Acts.
53 „ „ breach of Sponge Acts.
40 „ „ breach of Dog Act.
18 „ „ cruelty to animals.
57 „ „ larceny.

60. The Commandant reports juvenile crime to have been prevalent during the year, young boys having adopted the plan of hiding in places of business and then stealing. More control than the law at present affords is required.

61. There were 12 outbreaks of fire in Nassau of which two were incendiary and two suspected to be incendiary. Property to the value of £716 was endangered, the insurance on which amounted to about £194.

62. It is in contemplation to introduce a Bill into the legislature next session to improve the position and prospects of the force.

(B.) Prisons.

63. The daily average number in prison was 53·75.

The total number of persons committed in 1907 was 191, of whom 117 were men, 57 women and 17 juveniles.

Prisoners are employed in weeding, cleaning, and keeping in order public grounds and roads, and in making bread, uniforms, and clothing required for the General Hospital and Prison.

The sanitary state of the prison was very good.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

64. The following is a table of the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years (comparative table):—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	3,006	2,849	3,016	2,585	2,755
Number of summary convictions :					
(1) For offences against the person	278	277	286	293	407
(2) For prædial larceny	50	49	40	24	44
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	119	102	107	102	155
(4) For other offences	1,717	1,922	1,723	1,435	2,149
Number of convictions in the Superior Court :					
(1) For offences against the person	15	11	17	9	19
(2) For prædial larceny	—	—	—	2	—
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny	19	13	5	3	18
(4) For other offences	2	4	5	7	6
Number of persons acquitted :					
(1) In Inferior Court...	481	385	545	451	520
(2) In Superior Court	8	27	10	10	14

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

65. The population by the census of 1901 was 53,735.

The estimated population on the 31st December, 1907, was 59,713, but this figure takes no account of emigration or immigration.

Births in 1907—2,187. Deaths in 1907—1,611. No death certificates are required in this colony.

66. The area and population by the census of 1901 of the various Islands were as follows :—

District.	Area in Square Miles.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Abaco and Cays	776	1,568	1,746	3,314
Acklin's Island	120	704	861	1,565
Andros Island	1,600	3,192	3,155	6,347
Berry Islands	14	210	173	383
Biminis	8½	263	282	545
Cays Sal and Lobos... ...	7	9	9	18
Crooked Island	76	731	866	1,597
Eleuthera	164	4,159	4,574	8,733
Exuma and Cays	100	1,373	1,713	3,086
Grand Bahama	430	869	911	1,780
Harbour Island	1½	573	659	1,232
Inagua	560	748	705	1,453
Long Cay	8	257	242	499
Long Island	130	1,610	1,952	3,562
Mayaguana	96	161	174	335
New Providence	58	5,492	7,042	12,534
Ragged Island and Cays ...	5	192	173	365
Rum Cay	29	235	294	529
San Salvador...	160	2,090	2,568	4,658
Spanish Wells	½	271	263	534
Watling's Island	60	293	374	667
Total	4,403½	25,000	28,735	53,735

(B.) Public Health.

67. The Medical Inspector reports that the health of New Providence for the past six months of the year was good, but later there was an epidemic of whooping cough throughout the colony, with considerable mortality. Malarial fever of a rather severe type occurred in larger numbers than usual. 19 cases of typhoid fever of a mild type were reported.

68. Rules were framed for the dealing with mosquitoes, but it is unlikely that the pest can be materially abated in view of the existence to the south of Nassau of swamps and thousands of potholes in which the mosquitoes breed.

69. 127 successful vaccinations were performed in New Providence, and 1,425 in the out-islands.

(C.) Sanitation.

70. The sanitation of Nassau is good except that the drains require fuller and more frequent flushing, for which a certain provision has been made this year by the House of Assembly.

(D.) Climate.

71. The following are the meteorological data for the past five years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
								inches.
1903	77·1	79·3	78·2	81·8	70·5	92	54	51·45
1904	77·2	80·0	78·6	82·3	70·8	91	52·5	59·56
1905	77·6	80·2	78·9	83·7	71·9	92·5	52	54·69
1906	76·7	79·2	77·9	81·18	70·9	88	64	59·60
1907	77·5	80·0	78·8	82·3	71·5	91·5	60	39·30
Average for five years.	77·2	79·7	78·4	82·2	71·1	91	56·9	51·12

It will be seen that the rainfall in 1907 was very largely below the average.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS.

72. The postal revenue for 1907–8 was £3,820, as against £3,831 in 1906–7, a decrease of £11. The expenditure was £481.

The sales of stamps amounted to £2,527, as against £2,633 in the previous year. The decrease is due to smaller receipts from the sale of 5*s*. and 20*s*. stamps for revenual purposes.

The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 644,808, as against 538,838 in 1906–7, and 484,455 in 1905–6.

The following table compares the quantities of postal matter received and despatched in 1906–7 and 1907–8.

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.	Decrease.	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.	Decrease.
Foreign—								
Letters and post-cards.	186,477	251,011	64,534	—	155,978	168,443	12,465	—
Newspapers and books.	84,184	93,224	9,040	—	12,250	13,872	1,622	—
Inter-insular—								
Letters and post-cards.	33,746	40,370	6,624	—	41,637	50,279	8,642	—
Newspapers and books.	585	912	327	—	23,981	26,697	2,716	—
Totals	304,992	385,517	80,525	—	233,846	259,291	25,445	—

73. The Parcel Post figures were as follows:—

—	Number.	Value.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*
From the United Kingdom...	2,382	4,262	13	6
„ „ United States	2,982	2,079	3	7
To the United Kingdom	481	431	4	5
„ „ United States	502	181	5	9
Totals	6,347	6,954	7	3

In 1906-7 the figures were—

Parcels from the United Kingdom 2,138, value £3,289.
Parcels from the United States 2,899, value £1,982.

74. Money Orders issued and paid were as follows:—

Countries.	Issued.				Paid.			
	No.	Value.			No.	Value.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Canada	27	198	18	4	19	66	1	10
United Kingdom	629	1,078	15	11	75	189	9	11
United States	1,362	2,521	4	10	398	1,615	12	6
Totals	2,018	3,798	19	1	492	1,871	4	3

The figures in 1906-7 were—
Issued 1,691, value £1,983.
Paid 458, value £1,563.

75. During the year 1907-8 1,598 British Postal Orders, value (including poundage) £670 1*s.* 11*d.* were issued, and 276 orders, value £184 18*s.* 5*d.* paid, as against 1,081, value £401 issued and 211, value £106 paid in the previous year.

76. During the year new money orders conventions with the United States and Canada came into force dispensing with the use of Exchange Offices. Two of the out-islands—Inagua and Long Cay—the centres of the emigrant labour traffic—were placed in direct money order communication with those countries, resulting in a large increase in the number and amount of transactions.

77. Certain changes made by the Rome Convention came into operation from the 1st October, 1907. The unit of weight for letters was raised from ½ oz. to 1 oz., the postage to foreign countries being reduced after the first unit from 2½*d.* to 1½*d.* for each successive unit or fraction thereof, the latter rate of postage to the United Kingdom and British Possessions being 1*d.* per oz. These changes have not materially affected the revenue except by way of diminishing the amount of postage collected on insufficiently-paid letters.

Telegraph Service.

78. The revenue of the Telegraph Department was £1,248 and the expenditure £545. In the previous year the revenue was £1,258 and the expenditure £552.

A total of 3,847 messages passed over the cable, of which 369 were to and from Great Britain. The total number in 1906 was 3,836* and in 1905 4,419.

Telephone Service.

79. 218 stations are now in operation in Nassau and suburbs. The revenue for the year 1908-9 is put at £900 and the expenditure (exclusive of interest and sinking fund) at £490.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

80. With regard to emigrant labour, the Resident Justice of Inagua writes :—

> The ships taking stevedores were those of the Hamburg-American Line and George D. Emery Co. The contract labourers were employed by the Mexican Central Railway Co. and the George D. Emery Co. Cash paid out at Inagua during the year was £19,752.

---

* Incorrectly printed in Report for 1905-6 as 2,836.

81. The Resident Justice at Long Cay reports :—

The Hamburg-American Line is the only company which has employed stevedore labourers during the year. Their Agreement with the labourers is through a local agent, and in effect provides for discharging cargoes at their Southern terminus—Jamaica and ports on the Spanish main—and loading cargoes for New York ; as well as for any ordinary work which may be required. These men are discharged on their return. The rate of pay is 2*s*. per day, with overtime pay at 5*d*. per hour. Hours for work are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., the length of voyage averages 16 days. The foreman of each ship is paid on board $5 as a gratuity for the faithful discharge of his duties.

The Panama Railroad Company employed dock labourers for work on their piers at Colon and Christobal, and for assisting in discharging and loading their ships. The period of their contracts is for 6 months, renewable for another six months, at the company's option. Wages at $15 per month with the accustomed overtime pay of 10 cents. per hour. Time for work is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The company contracts through a representative at this island.

82. The subjoined table compares the labour traffic in 1907 with that of the three previous years :—

——	Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiration of engagement.	
		To work on board ship. (Stevedores.)	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c.		From work on board ship. (Stevedores.)	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c.
Inagua :						
1904 ...	68	2,081	675	69	2,100	724
1905 ...	78	2,010	545	80	2,004	697
1906 ...	93	2,675	532	92	2,760	352
1907 ...	92	2,887	595	95	2,985	396
Long Cay :						
1904 ...	66	1,534	280	65	1,489	137
1905 ...	68	1,513	640	66	1,455	265
1906 ...	77	2,115	493	87	1,995	496
1907 ...	85	2,557	458	89	2,476	446

83. On the 1st of January last the Act for the protection of emigrant labourers referred to in paragraph 57 of my Report for 1906-7 came into force. It is too early yet to report on its working, but it is understood that, so far, no contracts have been signed under the Act. The employment of stevedores, who are not affected by the Act, continues.

84. There were no hurricanes during the year, which was a fairly prosperous one. There was little distress, special relief having to be sent to only two small islands—Acklins and Mayaguana.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

85. A serious fire occurred at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, inflicting heavy financial loss and rendering a number of poor people temporarily homeless, in aid of whom private subscriptions were collected.

86. A long-continued drought caused a decrease in the production of fruit, vegetables, and ground crops. The price of sisal has dwindled considerably, partly owing to general financial depression, but partly, no doubt, to the export of immature and badly cleaned fibre, an evil which the House of Assembly has hitherto declined to combat. The sponge trade is also in a low state.

87. The following is a statement of liquor licences issued in the Colony, and revenue derived therefrom in 1906 and 1907 :—

Year.	General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount Received.
1906	77	25	2	2	£1,222 6*s.* 8*d.*
1907	82	26	1	Nil.	£1,405 0*s.* 0*d.*

General, Hotel, and Special Licences are retail licences.

W. HART BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas,
1st July, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas...	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
47	Do. do.	Do. 1905–6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 615.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1908-9.

(For Report for 1907–8, *see* No. 575.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1909.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, TWEEDDALE COURT, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1909.

[Cd. 4448–24.] *Price* 4*d.*

CONTENTS.

	Page.
I. Financial	4
II. Trade, Agriculture, and Industries	7
III. Legislation	16
IV. Education	19
V. Government Institutions	21
VI. Judicial Statistics	22
VII. Vital Statistics	24
VIII. Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services...	26
IX. General Observations	28

Sketch Map.

No. 615.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1907–8, *see* No. 575.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Nassau,
August 10th, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1908-9, together with the Colonial Secretary's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(14304—2.) Wt. 26122—322. 1125. 10/09. D & S

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1909.

1. In submitting this Report, I should explain that, although the figures with reference to finance are for the year ended 31st March (which is the financial year of the Colony) the statistics as to trade and customs are for the calendar year ended December 31st, 1908 (the customs year), while all other information is brought as nearly as possible up to the date of the report.

I.—FINANCIAL.

2. The revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1909, was £81,862, as compared with £89,694 in 1907-8, or £4,155 more than the average of the preceding five years. Twenty years ago the revenue was but £46,230.

3. The following are comparative details:—

Heads of Revenue.	1907–8.	1908–9.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	75,144	65,509	—	9,635
2. Port Dues, &c.	593	400	—	193
3. Licences and Internal Revenue ...	3,734	3,035	—	699
4. Fees and Reimbursements	2,787	4,995	2,208	—
5. Post and Telegraph	5,023	4,858	—	165
6. Rents	278	271	—	7
7. Widows and Orphans' Pensions ...	107	100	—	7
8. Miscellaneous	29	409	380	—
9. Interest	1,071	767	—	304
10. Land Sales	—	—	—	—
11. Excise Duty	10	69	59	—
12. Electric Light Fund	918	1,449	531	—
Totals	89,694	81,862	3,178	11,010

Nett decrease, £7,832.

The sale of Crown lands is not included in this return.

4. There was a lamentable decrease of nearly £10,000 in customs duties, bringing the revenue to about what it was in 1906-7.

5. Other increases and decreases call for no note except perhaps reimbursements, the increase in which is only apparent, as it represents book transactions appearing on both sides of the account.

6. The expenditure amounted to £99,655, as against £79,790 in 1907-8, or an increase of £19,865, and was £26,666 more than

the average of the preceding five years. The expenditure twenty years ago was £48,476.

The following are the details:—

Service.	1907–8.	1908–9.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Public Debt Charges	6,543	6,690	147	—
2. Pensions	3,460	3,303	—	157
3. House of Assembly	1,147	1,473	326	—
4. Legislative Council	124	197	73	—
5. Governor	1,226	1,258	32	—
6. Colonial Secretary	985	1,013	28	—
7. Receiver-General	3,049	3,056	7	—
8. Judicial	6,626	6,587	—	39
9. Registrar	559	638	79	—
10. Constabulary and Police	5,802	5,604	—	198
11. Fire	408	1,546	1,138	—
12. Surveyor-General	489	699	210	—
13. Audit	360	438	78	—
14. Post Office	8,403	9,243	840	—
15. Telegraph and Telephone	1,335	1,347	12	—
16. Ecclesiastical	—	—	—	—
17. Educational	5,356	6,196	840	—
18. Public Libraries	454	506	52	—
19. Port and Marine	1,800	2,022	222	—
20. Medical	610	602	—	8
21. Charitable Institutions	8,393	7,380	—	1,013
22. Prisons...	1,912	1,911	—	1
23. Public Works...	16,740	18,180	1,440	—
24. Miscellaneous	2,081	7,364	5,283	—
25. Board of Agriculture	700	1,000	300	—
26 Marine Products Board	300	300	—	—
27. Electric Light Construction... ...	47	9,773	9,726	—
28. Electric Light Fund	777	1,329	552	—
Investment Surplus Fund ...	104	—	—	104
Totals	79,790	99,655	21,385	1,520

Nett increase £19,865.

7. In the table of expenditure account is taken of expenditure on Hurricane Works. For this purpose the Legislature sanctioned £8,000, of which some £6,500 has been, or will be, spent on relief works, distribution of food, and repair and reconstruction of public buildings, wharves, school-houses, &c., consequent on the hurricanes of September and October, 1908. The remainder is available for loans to distressed individuals.

8. The expenditure was further swelled by the introduction of electric light into the City of Nassau (*see* paragraph 100 of this Report) for which £15,500 was sanctioned, and, up to the 31st March, about £10,000 spent.

9. It is well to note that recent legislation has caused, or will cause, a considerable increase in the fixed expenditure of the Colony. The new mail contracts with New York and Florida account for an increase of £2,500, primary education £1,000,

out-island administration £1,500, and out-island mails £1,000. So that if public works are to be carried out in any magnitude, and the out-islands be developed, recourse must be had in the near future to increased taxation.

10. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue (+) or Expenditure(—).
	£	£	£
1904–5	71,112	69,825	+ 1,287
1905–6	77,294	70,256	+ 7,038
1906–7	79,058	71,087	+ 7,971
1907–8	89,694	79,790	+ 9,904
1908–9	81,862	99,655	— 17,793

11. The following table shows the excess of assets over liabilities for the past five years:—

	£
On the 31st March, 1905	16,570
" " 1906	27,092
" " 1907	35,140
" " 1908	45,692
" " 1909	16,207

12. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent., was £113,126, and now stands at £63,124.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking funds is £6,580.

The existing debt will be wholly liquidated by the year 1926.

13. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid-up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to £66,000, was established under the authority of a local Act in 1888. Its charter expires this year, and a Bill is now before the Legislature dealing generally with banks and banking.

14. The Royal Bank of Canada established a branch here during the year.

15. The current coins are British silver and copper, and a very little gold. United States gold is current to some extent in the southern islands of the Colony and a very little United States silver. United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender but are accepted, if of $5 and upwards, at the same rate as United States gold. If below $5 at the rate of 4*s.* to the dollar.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

16. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1908, were valued at £369,490 (including £2,364 specie), as against £372,937 (including £5,187 specie) in 1907. Twenty years ago the imports were valued at only £172,874.

17. The following table shows whence they came, and in this connection I repeat paragraph 14 of my report for 1907-8:—

"But inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in "this Colony these figures are not to be relied upon. There is "no direct communication with the United Kingdom, and conse- "quently many goods really imported from that country are "classified as if imported from the United States where they "are transhipped. It is only when merchants specially enter "their goods as having been imported from the United Kingdom "that they are so classified."

Country.	Value. 1907.	Value. 1908.
	£	£
United States of America ...	253,567*	253,622‡
United Kingdom	93,631†	93,538
Canada	8,385	8,152
British West Indies	10,237	6,635
Foreign Countries other than the United States	7,317	7,543
Total	372,937	369,490

18. The values of the principal articles imported as compared with the previous year were:—

Article.	Value 1907.	Value 1908	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors:—				
Alcohol	93	32	—	61
Ale, cider, porter	2,320	2,293	—	27
Brandy	176	189	13	—
Gin	4,218	3,317	—	901
Rum	4,026	3,507	—	519
Whiskey	1,775	1,939	164	—
Wines	1,612	1,148	—	464
Automobiles	2,248	579	—	1,669
Bicycles	396	361	—	35
Butter and cheese	8,774	8,143	—	631
Cattle	2,304	1,619	—	685
Coffee	2,535	2,792	257	—
Corn, cornmeal, and hominy ...	15,979	16,015	36	—
Carried forward ...	46,456	41,934	470	4,992

* Includes specie £3,167.
† " " £2,020.
‡ " " £2,364.

Article.	Value 1907.	Value 1908.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	46,456	41,934	470	4,992
Coal	2,608	2,882	274	—
Electrical appliances	735	10,021	9,886	—
Fertilizers	1,631	1,344	—	287
Flour	43,936	41,150	—	2,786
Gasoline	443	668	225	—
Hay, oats, and bran	6,293	5,823	—	470
Horses, mules, and donkeys ...	243	1,250	1,007	—
Ice	1,779	1,688	—	91
Lard	7,131	6,502	—	629
Lumber, shingles, laths, mahogany, grate-ends.	8,949	6,206	—	2,743
Machinery	11,026	29,599	18,573	—
Meat, fresh	4,180	5,197	1,017	—
Meat, salt	13,223	13,007	—	216
Oil, kerosene	4,354	4,208	—	146
Potatoes and onions	2,237	2,013	—	224
Railroad stock	2,777	6,262	3,485	—
Rice	13,416	10,980	—	2,436
Rope and canvas	7,152	4,736	—	2,416
Soap	3,425	2,879	—	546
Sugars	12,916	11,791	—	1,125
Steam and motor launches ...	857	391	—	466
Tea	797	838	41	—
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	6,380	7,171	791	—
Unenumerated—				
Earthenware, glassware, furniture.	38,512	34,859	—	3,653
Hardware, tinware	21,966	16,747	—	5,219
Preserved meat, fish	22,026	21,106	—	920
Textile fabrics	63,809	57,064	—	6,745
All other articles	18,493	18,810	317	—
Totals	367,750	367,126	35,486	36,110
Specie	5,187	2,364	—	2,823
Totals	372,937	369,490	35,486	38,933

Nett decrease, £3,447.

19. These figures call for no comment, except that the large increase in machinery and railroad stock is entirely due to the operations of the American Timber Company at Abaco; and in electrical appliances partly to the same cause, but mainly to the installation by Government of electric light in the City of Nassau.

The new Tariff Act of last session came into operation on the 8th June, 1908. It contains no important variations.

20. The exports for the year ended 31st December, 1908, were valued at £183,239 (including £4,057 specie), as against £238,232 (including £7,929 specie) in 1907. £175,529 represented the produce of the Colony. Twenty years ago the amount was £102,675.

21. The following table gives the export of Colonial produce:—

Article.	1907.		1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Cotton ... ... Lbs.	8,568	234	13,090	319
Fruit:—				
Coconuts ... ... No.	316,250	955	6,860	15
Grape-fruit ... ... „	707,975	3,170	276,576	1,264
Oranges... ... ... „	1,599,860	3,007	105,059	93
Pineapples, fresh ... Doz.	67,012	4,242	118,526	11,856
„ preserved... Cases.	68,319	13,579	59,839	10,997
Lumber, &c.:—				
Bark ... ... Lbs.	154,883	2,099	133,156	2,169
Hardwood ... ... Tons.	677	1,485	—	1,373
Lumber... ... .. Feet.	875,926	4,693	178,117	238
Salt ... ... Bshls.	7,745	85	4,900	82
Shells, conch ... ... No.	152,222	1,928	359,572	1,215
„ turtle ... ... Lbs	9,942	13,100	7,273	7,493
Sisal ... ... „	4,306,082	46,669	5,281,449	42,627
Sponge ... ... „	1,660,677	129,699	1,601,718	94,238

22. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	1907.	1908.
	£	£
United Kingdom	26,672	30,558
Canada	6,543	110
Jamaica	60	101
United States	125,760	119.841
Other Foreign Countries ...	67,784	24,917
Total	226,819	175,529

These figures are, however, somewhat misleading, inasmuch as certain exports to Canada and probably to other places appear as exports to America for the reason that they were shipped viâ New York. The Elder-Dempster steamers do not touch at Nassau on their way back to Canada.

23. A return of the values of imports and exports for the past five years is subjoined:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1904	297,241	194,936	492,177
1905	308,544	222,905	531,449
1906	329,115	221.925	551,040
1907	372,937	238,232	611,169
1908	369,490	183,239	552,729

24. There are no mines. Limestone for building is found in most of the larger islands, valued at the quarry at about 10*d*. per cubic foot.

25. The export of preserved pineapples in the year ended 31st December was 59,839 cases, valued at £10,997.

In 1907 the figures were 68,349 cases—£13,579
In 1906 ,, ,, 117,196 ,, —£19,090

In 1908 the J. S. Johnson Company purchased 111,617 dozen pineapples for canning purposes, as against 180,421 dozen in 1907, a decrease of 68,804 dozen. The Governor's Harbour factory also shows a decrease from the previous year.

The Curator reports that the decrease is owing to the damage done the crops by the protracted drought during the latter end of 1906 and spring of 1907, which, combined with a degenerated stock, affected the yield so much that short crops were looked for. Reports as to the prospects for 1909 crops seem to be more encouraging.

The decrease in the pineapple industry has been discouraging, though the causes of failure have been special rather than general, and they should not be a permanent deterrent.

The Board of Agriculture, with the help of the increased grants from the Legislature, imported and distributed to pineapple growers 180,000 red Spanish pineapple slips at a cost of £260 7*s*. 2*d*. These were mostly distributed on condition that half the increase of stock for three years should be given to the Board for redistribution. By this means, and with additional importations and the experiments in fertilisers now being carried out, the Board hopes in a few years, with favourable weather conditions, to revive the position of this important industry.

26. There were seven sisal factories in New Providence. The J. S. Johnson Company have four factories with four cleaning machines; 1,500 acres are planted, and the output was 133 tons.

The Bahamas Fibre and Produce Company have three factories and about 1,400 acres. Two Todd and one Vilkamer machines are in use, and the output was about 80 tons.

At Little Abaco the Sisal Fibre Company has two cleaning machines; one Todd and one Terrorella machines are in use; about 5,000 acres are planted, and thirteen miles of railroad laid. The output was 122 tons, or 661 bales.

At Whale Cay, Berry Islands, there is one factory with one Todd cleaning machine, and about 250 acres.

Messrs. R. H. Sawyer and Company have a factory at Abaco. At San Salvador there are two factories with three cleaning machines which, however, are not in operation. These plantations are nearly exhausted.

There are two factories at Inagua, one only in operation.

27. At the American Lumber Works at Wilson City, Abaco, a new mill is under construction which is calculated to saw 75,000 feet per diem. A number of fine houses have been built as well as one of the largest stores in the Bahamas.

The Company sawed 2,256,885 feet during 1908, nearly all being used for building on the spot.

The Company has concessions at Andros and Grand Bahama also, but has not begun operations in these Islands.

A fire burnt out part of the old mill. A waterworks system is almost complete, and an ice plant and electric light are being installed.

The Company gives well-paid employment to a large number of Bahamian labourers.

28. The sponge beds on the north side of the Exuma Cays were destroyed by the hurricane. The beds at Acklins remain closed.

The industry was not in a prosperous condition during the year, but at the time of writing prospects are better.

The turtling industry was considerably affected by the seizure by the Cuban Government of several Bahamian schooners alleged to have been fishing within the territorial limit.

The sponge fisheries of this Colony are not likely to be placed on a satisfactory footing until the Legislature makes provision to secure the services of an expert marine biologist.

29. A comparative return of sponge exported during the past five years follows :—

Comparative Return of Sponge Exported, 1904–1908.

Country to which exported.	1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
United Kingdom	100,827	8,251	95,499	5,387	175,938	10,258	170,120	15,729	486,912	21,937
Canada	781	214	1,457	420	—	—	10,895	1,638	50	15
United States of America	790,652	53,287	864,658	60,548	783,386	45,296	910,603	50,415	865,733	47,799
France	88,957	10,345	100,715	11,956	140,253	21,161	122,358	20,180	72,730	9,314
Holland	128,359	9,902	158,488	14,519	111,074	12,372	111,697	13,140	8,896	1,632
Germany	292,659	23,235	254,494	20,096	307,173	26,206	320,968	28,198	147,161	12,783
Russia	5,723	484	10,441	666	1,113	94	—	—	524	57
Italy	—	—	4,396	125	9,863	140	14,036	399	19,712	701
Totals	1,407,958	105,718	1,490,148	113,753	1,528,800	115,527	1,660,677	129,699	1,601,718	94,238

30. The most important industry is the raising of sisal fibre. The estimated area under cultivation is considerably over 25,000 acres. The output exceeds that of previous years, and the acreage is increasing.

The Curator reports that notwithstanding the drop in the price of sisal during the year the number of bales shipped is in advance of the number shipped during 1907. At the end of October, 1907, a financial crisis set in in America, with the result that prices for fibre fell away considerably; at present the prices are about two cents per pound less than at the beginning of 1907.

Complaints of the gathering of immature fibre and of fibre being badly cleaned continue.

Exported in 1908, 5,281,449 lbs., value £42,627
,, 1907, 4,306,082 lbs., ,, £46,669

Oranges and Grape-fruit.

31. The crop of grape-fruit and oranges has decreased enormously, mainly in consequence of the hurricanes. In 1907 707,975 grape-fruit were exported, value £3,170; in 1908 only 276,576, value £1,264.

1,599,869 oranges were exported in 1907, valued at £3,007; but only 105,059, valued at £93, in 1908.

A Canadian Fruit and Vegetable Company was organised in 1907. The enterprise is financed by Canadian capitalists.

Coconuts.

32. No demand was experienced for coconuts during the year; only 6,860 were exported at a value of £15.

33. Comparative returns of exports of sisal, pineapples (fresh and preserved), grape-fruit, oranges, and coconuts for the past five years are annexed:—

Comparative Return of Sisal Exported, 1904–1908.

Country to which exported.	1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
United Kingdom	—	—	131,895	1,625	—	—	26,598	308	—	—
United States	2,218,825	29,557	2,908,950	35,897	3,722,733	38,702	4,279,484	46,361	5,281,449	42,627
Canada	—	—	—	—	144,301	1,438	—	—	—	—
Totals	2,218,825	29,557	3,040,845	37,522	3,867,034	40,140	4,306,082	46,669	5,281,449	42,627

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Fresh) Exported, 1904–1908.

	Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.	
United Kingdom	228,608	22,616	197,324	19,759	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242	118,526	11,856
Canada	—	—	72	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	150	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	228,608	22,616	197,546	19,776	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242	118,526	11,856

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Preserved) Exported, 1904–1908.

	No.of cases.		No.of cases.		No of cases.		No.of cases.		No.of cases.	
United States	62,900	12,580	58.499	10,640	116,010	18,736	61,984	12,532	59,839	10,997
Canada	6	2	6,032	1,058	1,186	354	6,365	1,047	—	—
United Kingdom	2,178	436	25	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	75	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	50	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	65,159	13,033	64,606	11,713	117,196	19,090	68,349	13,579	59,839	10,997

Comparative Return of Grape-fruit Exported, 1904–1908.

Country to which exported.	1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
United Kingdom	—	—	10,000	46	7,500	31	938	4	—	—
Canada	—	—	56,588	192	6,988	58	293,800	1,970	—	—
United States	231,096	1,374	467,473	2,159	415,646	1,748	413,237	1,696	276,576	1,264
Totals	231,096	1,374	534,061	2,397	430,134	1,837	707,975	3,670	276,576	1,264

Comparative Return of Oranges Exported, 1904–1908.

United Kingdom	—	—	4,500	5	—	—	3,000	3	—	—
Canada	—	—	1,086,000	887	82,000	148	1,089,400	2,369	—	—
United States	272,955	338	615,818	496	485,269	635	507,460	635	105,059	93
Totals	272,955	338	1,706,318	1,388	567,269	783	1,599,860	3,007	105,059	93

Comparative Return of Coconuts Exported, 1904–1908.

United States	1,380	6	15,950	34	297,850	710	316,250	955	6,860	15
Totals	1,380	6	15,950	34	297,850	710	316,250	955	6,860	15

34. It is shown by the Curator's report that considerable progress has been made and satisfactory work done at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Nassau. The report is very full, and contains many points of interest. The experiments with Sea Island cotton in the plots at the station and in the out-islands are of great interest and value. A number of small farmers are reported to have taken up the industry.

35. The total number of acres of land granted is put at 368,930, and the total remaining ungranted at 1,766,620. The total number of acres of Crown land sold in 1908 was 156, as against 646 in 1907.

Squatting is prevalent.

Many lands granted two or three years ago remain unsurveyed on account of want of staff.

36. The number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared during 1908, distinguishing nationalities, are given in the following return: —

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	155	13,145	160	12,126	38	63,381	37	62,863
American	25	4,870	25	4,870	101	232,401	101	232,403
Haytian	13	132	15	158	—	—	—	—
German	—	—	—	—	155	352,021	155	352,012
Norwegian	—	—	—	—	1	1,958	1	1,958
Dominican	1	8	1	8	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	194	18,155	201	17,162	295	649,761	294	649,236
Totals in 1907 ...	213	15,734	214	15,996	460	949,101	459	948,246

37. The very great decrease in the number and tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared is due to the fact that the German steamers ceased to call at Inagua and Long Cay for the purpose of embarking and landing emigrant labourers. It does not represent any decrease in the actual trade of the Colony. (*See* paragraph 101 of this report.)

38. The number of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was: —

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1904	18	299
1905	5	77
1906	13	229
1907	11	190
1908	8	491 (a)

(a) One of these is a schooner of 320 tons.

39. A new lighthouse has been erected at the east end of New Providence. It is exhibited from a square stone building, 57 feet above high-water mark, and visible in clear weather about eight miles. It is not proposed at present to close the old lighthouse on Athol Island.

III.—LEGISLATION.

40. The principal Acts passed during the Session of 1908, which did not close until the 8th June, were enumerated in paragraph 38 of my Report for that year.

41. By the courtesy of the Secretary of the Bar Association, Mr. Harcourt Malcolm, I am now enabled to append a few extracts from his able report dealing with them:—

"CHAPTER 4. MARRIAGE.

"The Marriage Act, 1908, makes a radical change in the Marriage Laws of "the Colony. Marriages can only be solemnized now under the authority of "(a) a Registrar's certificate, (b) a Marriage Officer's certificate, (c) a Special "licence; or (d) without any authority where one of the persons is *in articulo* "*mortis*. All Officers under the Act are appointed by the Governor. Magis- "trates are *ex officio* Registrars of Marriage. Ministers of Religious Denomi- "nations are ordinarily entitled to registration as Marriage Officers. The "assumption of such an office by them is purely voluntary and the assent of "the Secretary of State is necessary to debar a Minister from being appointed "as a Marriage Officer in respect of his congregation. No future marriage has "any effect unless it is solemnized under the provisions of this Act. A "marriage where one of the parties is *in articulo mortis* does not revoke a will."

NOTE.—This Act has not been brought into force, having been amended by an Act of the present Session.

"CHAPTER 5. MAGISTRATES.

"The Magistrates Amendment Act, 1908, extends the civil jurisdiction of "Magistrates from Ten pounds to Twenty-five pounds and the criminal juris- "diction by raising from Two pounds to Five pounds the value of the property "in cases of larceny, etc., etc. The summary jurisdiction of Magistrates over "indictable offences is suspended when by reason of a previous conviction the "accused is liable to be tried in the Supreme Court. A Magistrate may also "deal with malicious and unlawful wounding and grievous bodily harm or "assault occasioning actual bodily harm if he thinks the offence may be "adequately punished under the Magistrates Acts, 1896 to 1908. He is also "given power to imprison a child for one month or fine him five pounds."

"CHAPTER 6. OUT-ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

"The Out-Islands Administration Act, 1908, reorganizes the administration "of the out-islands. It effects several fundamental changes: (1) Resident "Justices and Assistant Resident Justices, with their historical associations, "are swept away, and are replaced by Commissioners; (2) Commissioners are "divided into four divisions with salaries ranging from One Hundred and "Twenty-five pounds to Two hundred and Fifty pounds according to the "division the Commissioner is in and irrespective of what district he may be "in charge of; (3) Five years' local service is necessary for eligibility for "appointment or promotion to the first division; (4) A Commissioner is *ex* "*officio* a Revenue Officer and Warehouse keeper; may be moved from one

" District to another at any time but may not remain longer than three years " in any one District ; and may be retired at sixty ; (5) Cadetships are created, " tenable for not longer than six years. A Cadet is available for service in any " part of the Colony, but is not entitled to pension unless he becomes a Com- " missioner or otherwise enters the Service ; (6) For the purposes of the Act " the Governor in Council, subject to the approval of the Legislature, may vary " the divisions of the out-islands."

Note.—This Act was brought into operation on the 1st May, 1909.

" CHAPTER 7. EDUCATION.

" The Education Act, 1908, consolidates and amends twelve Acts. The " Education Board consists of twelve Members who are appointed annually. " All property, both real and personal, is vested in the Board, which is created a " Corporation. Provision is made for the enforcing of the compulsory pro- " visions of the Act ; for the creation of local Committees ; for the performance " of the duties of the several Officers ; and for the regulation of the constitution " and procedure of the Board. Part Three provides that undenominational " religious instruction shall be supplied, and requires elementary and scientific " instruction in the principles of temperance, hygiene, and agriculture. The " salaries of the principal Officials are regulated, and in addition to these " salaries an annual grant of six thousand pounds is made for the carrying out " of the Act."

" CHAPTER 9. IMMIGRANT PAUPERS AND STOWAWAYS.

" The Immigrant Paupers Prevention Act, 1908, penalizes the Master of any " ship who lands without the consent of the authorities a certain class of passen- " ger who may become a burden on the Colony. Such person may be allowed " to land if the Government is guaranteed that he will not become a burden " within three years. In addition to heavy penalties imposed on the Captain " and the passenger, and anyone who assists in the landing of such passenger, " the ship is made subject to a maritime lien."

" CHAPTER 31. MOTOR CARS.

" The Motor Car Act, 1908, is a comprehensive enactment regulating the use of " motor cars in the island of New Providence. Both the car and driver must " be registered and licensed annually. Offences against the Act include (1) " reckless driving, (2) using an unregistered car, (3) driving a car without a " driver's licence, (4) improperly fixing or obscuring registered number, (5) " employing an unlicensed driver, (6) failure to produce licence in certain cases, " (7) forging or altering licence, etc. Power to apprehend without a warrant " in certain cases is given to a peace officer. In case of accident, etc. driver " must stop and give all particulars. Lamps and horn must be carried. The " Governor in Council has power generally to make rules. The extreme speed " limit is twenty miles per hour. The Act applies to persons in the Public " Service of the Crown and preserves all Statutory or Common Law liabilities " of both driver and owner."

42. In the autumn of 1908 a special session of the Legislature was held, which resulted in the passing of an Act entitled " The Hurricanes Relief Act," sanctioning the expenditure of £8,000 on relief works, food supplies, reconstruction and repairs of public buildings, wharves, school houses, &c., gifts of material, and loans of money to distressed persons, &c., necessitated by the hurricanes of September and October.

43. The Government introduced a measure to provide for future rainy days by establishing an Emergency Relief Fund, allocating thereto an annual sum of £1,000, but it was not passed.

44. The session of 1909 opened on the 9th March, and up to the time of signing this report (31st July, 1909) is not yet closed. It is therefore impossible to attempt any review of the legislation of the session, but the Legislature has had under its consideration some 40 Bills, of which the more important are:—

(1.) A Bill for the reorganization of the Police Force, which is referred to more fully in paragraph 69 of this Report.

(2.) The Conveyancing and Law of Property Bill.

(3.) A Bill to amend the Magistrates Acts dealing with squatters, small tenements, and the unlawful possession of goods.

(4.) A Bill relating to Jurors and trial by Jury.

(5.) A Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Coroners.

(6.) A Bill to consolidate the Cattle, Dog, and Pound Acts.

(7.) A Bill regulating the law relating to Revolvers.

It is to be regretted that the House have again thrown out a most useful Bill for the Acquisition of Land for public purposes, and also a most desirable measure dealing with wrecks.

A Bill was introduced constituting a Court of Appeal with the Chief Justice as President and the two Circuit and Stipendiary Magistrates (in future to be styled "Assistant Judges") as Members. The Bill has not however been passed by the House of Assembly for the reason, I understand, that it was introduced at a late period of the Session when many members were away, and not on account of any opposition to its principle. It will be re-introduced next Session.

Since writing the above the Report of the Honorary Secretary of the Bar Association on the legislation of 1909 has been published, from which I extract the following:—

"CHAPTER 4. BANKS.

"The Banks Act, 1909, requires every Bank incorporated outside the Colony "to file in the office of the Registrar of Records a copy of the Act, Charter, or "Certificate of incorporation of such Bank, and also any further Act, Charter, "or Certificate of incorporation, all of which documents are open to public "inspection without the payment of any fee. The Banks which are specified "in the Schedule as well as any other Bank which may be inserted in such "Schedule may until the Twenty-first November, 1919, issue Bank notes, which "must be secured by a deposit of coin or security with the Treasurer of the "Colony. The minimum value of any note is four shillings and in addition to "being signed by certain officers of the Bank must be countersigned by the "Treasurer of the Colony. In the event of the depreciation of the deposit of "security the Governor in Council may call upon a Bank to make good such "depreciation, and a Bank may reduce the amount of its note issue and ask for "a return of part of the security deposited. Annual statements have to be "published and the Governor may at any time call for a special return. Power "is given to make rules and provision is made for the event of suspension of "specie payments and the internal arrangements of the institution; dividends "are required to be paid out of profits only. The Charter of the Bank of "Nassau is renewed for twenty-one years."

"CHAPTER 7. CONVEYANCING.

"The Conveyancing Act, 1909, is composed of the provisions of the following "Imperial Statutes, viz.: The Vendors and Purchasers Act, 1874, and the Convey-"ancing Acts, 1881 to 1892, with the exception of those portions which refer to "Trustees and Mortgages, Infants, and Long Terms."

"CHAPTER 8. POLICE.

"The Police Act, 1909, provides for the amalgamation of the Police and "Constabulary Forces; increases the strength of the combined force; makes "the members pensionable; and provides generally for the police work of the "Colony."

"CHAPTER 9. FIREARMS.

"The Revolvers Act, 1909, requires the possession of a licence in order to "have a revolver or pistol in one's custody or possession. Provision is made "for the marking of revolvers and the registration of licences. Dealers must "also be licensed. Power to search premises is given, and the Governor may "exempt any one from the operation of the Act."

"CHAPTER 23. SUPREME COURT.

"The Supreme Court Amendment Act, 1909, makes further provision in "connection with the admission to the Bahamas Bar of members of the English, "Irish, or Scotch Bars. It also extends the jurisdiction of the Summary side "of the Court from fifty pounds to one hundred pounds."

"CHAPTER 26. EMIGRANT LABOURERS.

"The Emigrant Labourers Protection Act, 1909, deals with the employment "of persons resident in the Colony in places outside the Colony. It is a re-"enactment of the Emigrant Labourers Protection Act, 1907, with various "modifications as to the liability of the employer, and the amount to be drawn "by the labourer. It also empowers the Governor in Council to require from "an employer a guarantee for the due performance of any contract."

"CHAPTER 27. MARRIAGE.

"The Marriage Amendment Act, 1909, as well as correcting numerous clerical "errors in the Marriage Act, 1908, provides for the *registration* instead of the "*appointment* of Ministers of Religion as Marriage Officers and imposes a "penalty of Five hundred pounds for solemnising a marriage contrary to the "provisions of the principal Act."

IV.—EDUCATION.

45. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools:—

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average attendance.
1906...	46	7,314	6,154	4,592	16	1,199	1,042	632	62	8,513	7,196	5,224
1907...	46	7,151	6,026	4,498	16	1,295	1,199	741	62	8,446	7,225	5,239
1908...	46	7,055	5,917	4,425	14	1,275	1,136	703	60	8,320	7,053	5,128

46. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education was as follows:—

—	1906.	1907.	1908.
Principal teachers	46	46	46
Assistant teachers	8	7	8
Pupil teachers...	5	4	3
Monitors	132	127	124
Sewing teachers	9	9	11
Students in training	3	3	4
Employed in aided schools	16	16	15
Total	219	212	211

47. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

—	1906.			1907.			1908.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board schools	3,232	2,928	6,160	3,160	2,866	6,026	3,097	2,820	5,917
Aided private schools ...	576	489	1,065	680	519	1,199	611	525	1,136
Church of England ...	747	832	1,579	728	813	1,541	740	855	1,595
Roman Catholic	211	268	479	209	283	492	212	285	497
Private schools	138	188	326	93	88	181	146	207	353
Wesleyan schools	—	—	—	19	34	53	20	22	42
Total	4,904	4,705	9,609	4,889	4,603	9,492	4,826	4,717	9,540

48. The average cost per child in average attendance was £1 4*s*. 7*d*., as against £1 in 1907.

49. In New Providence 239 cases (as against 212 in 1907) were reported under the compulsory attendance section of the Act. Twenty-one were not tried, 66 dismissed, 38 orders made, 105 fined, and 9 whipped.

In the out-islands 1,266 cases were reported (as against 610 in 1907). 310 were not tried, 308 were dismissed, 210 orders made, and 399 fined.

50. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board there were 30 maintained by the Church of England, six of which were in New Providence. Average roll 1,595 and average attendance 894.

There were also three Roman Catholic schools, total roll 497, and 17 private schools (13 in 1907), roll 353.

51. By an Act passed in 1908, the annual vote to the Board of Education was increased from £5,000 to £6,000; the school age was also raised from 13 to 14 years, a course which was recommended by the Inspector of Schools 20 years ago.

52. Several school-houses were destroyed or damaged by the hurricanes which visited the Colony in September and October, 1908, and the attendance was, as a consequence, affected.

53. There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education.

Private organizations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College	36	34	70
Nassau Grammar School	12	—	12
St. Francis Xavier's Academy ...	15	27	42
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera) ...	17	13	30
Total	80	74	154

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

54. The ancient title of "New Providence Asylum" has been changed to that of "Bahamas General Hospital," which covers the hospital proper, the infirmary, dispensary, and lunatic and leper wards.

55. The number of inmates on the 1st January, 1908, was:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	29	19	48
Victoria Infirmary	11	12	23
Lunatic Asylum	15	15	30
Leper Asylum	3	1	4
Total	58	47	105

56. 594 patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 699, of whom 280 were discharged recovered, 86 relieved, 86 discharged not improved, and 138 died.

57. At the close of the year 1908, 103 remained, distributed as follows:—

—	Males.	Females	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	20	21	41
Victoria Infirmary	14	13	27
Lunatic Asylum	18	11	29
Leper Asylum...	4	2	6
Total	56	47	103

58. The Assistant Surgeon visited 816 cases at their homes.

59. The Resident Surgeon reports that diarrhœa and dysentery formed the majority of the diseases treated in the hospital, accounting, together with the fact that so many patients on admission are in a hopeless condition, for the unusual number of deaths.

60. The probationer nurses have made satisfactory progress.

61. The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 30th June, 1908 (the end of the Savings Bank year), was 2,297; on the 30th June, 1907, 2,151; and on the 30th June, 1906, 1,971.

62. The deposits and withdrawals were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1906	3,858	9,791	2,528	8,580
1907	4,606	11,927	2,723	8,002
1908	4,524	13,264	3,150	12,104

63. The balance due to depositors was on the 30th June, 1908, £31,628, as against £29,750 on the 30th June, 1907.

64. The assets and liabilities were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Assets.	Excess of Assets over Liabilities.
	£	£
1906	26,448 ...	1,252
1907	31,237 ...	1,483
1908	33,914 ...	1,682

65. In the first year of the establishment of the bank there were 344 depositors with £3,055 deposits.

66. The deposits in the Savings Bank may be expected to show a diminution, by reason of the facilities now afforded to small depositors by the Bank of Nassau and the Royal Bank of Canada.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

67. The strength of the Police Force on the 1st January, 1909, was 104. Six enlistments were made from Barbados. Local men who can pass the physical and educational tests have not presented themselves.

68. The total number of persons arrested and reported in New Providence during 1908 was 757, as against 796 in 1907.

Inter alia there were prosecuted—

190 cases of profane language in public.
67 „ drunkenness in public.
54 „ fighting in public.
60 „ assault.
64 „ breaches of Street Traffic Acts.
15 „ „ Sponge Acts.
40 „ „ Dog Act.
15 „ cruelty to animals.
75 „ larceny.

69. A Bill is now before the Legislature consolidating and amending the Police and Constabulary Acts and effecting improvements in the position and prospects of the Force. In this Colony there are at present two forces—the constabulary and the police—the separate existence of which will gradually disappear under the operation of the new Act.

70. There were 15 outbreaks of fire in Nassau, of which four were probably incendiary.

Insurance on property damaged amounted to £700 as far as can be ascertained.

Recently there have been several incendiary fires, and it is contemplated to hold an enquiry into the organization of the various brigades.

71. The daily average number in prison was 61·99, as against 53·75 in the previous year. The total number of persons committed in 1908 was 200 (as against 101 in 1907), of whom 121 were men, 70 women, 9 juveniles.

72. Prisoners are employed in weeding, cleaning, and keeping in order public grounds and roads, and in making bread, uniforms, and clothing for the prison and hospital.

73. The sanitary condition of the prison was very good.

74. A very large number of punishments was inflicted, viz., 184. The Inspector reports as follows:—"This arose partly from having a number of hardened offenders in the prison, and much more from the prevalent idea amongst these men that whipping was abolished. After it was found that prisoners were getting violent and out of control, the "cat" was again used, and effected an immediate reformation."

75. *Criminal Statistics.*

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	2,849	3,016	2,585	2,755	2,562
Number of summary convictions:					
(1) For offences against the person ...	277	286	293	249	250
(2) For prædial larceny	49	40	24	25	52
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	102	107	102	81	130
(4) For other offences	1,922	1,723	1,435	1,582	1,444

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Number of convictions in Superior Court:					
(1) For offences against the person ...	11	17	9	12	2
(2) For prædial larceny	—	—	2	—	—
(3) For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	13	5	3	9	20
(4) For other offences	4	5	7	4	3
Number of persons acquitted:					
(1) In Inferior Court	385	545	451	520	426
(2) In Superior Court	27	10	10	14	10

Note.—The numbers of convictions were not correctly given in the Report for 1907, paragraph 64. They are corrected above.

76. It will be noticed that prædial larceny is on the increase.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

77. The population by the census of 1901 was 53,735.

78. The estimated population on the 31st December, 1908, was 60,309, but this figure takes no account of emigration or immigration.

Births in 1908, 2,046; deaths in 1908, 1,540.

No death certificates are yet required in the Colony.

Birth-rate 3·4 per cent.; death-rate 2·6 per cent.

79. For convenient reference I again append the results of the census of 1901.

District.	Area in Square Miles.	Males.	Females	Total.
Abaco and Cays...	776	1,568	1,746	3,314
Acklin's Island	120	704	861	1,565
Andros Island	1,600	3,192	3,155	6,347
Berry Islands	14	210	173	383
Biminis	8½	263	282	545
Cays Sal and Lobos	7	9	9	18
Crooked Island	76	731	866	1,597
Eleuthera	164	4,159	4,574	8,733
Exuma and Cays	100	1,373	1,713	3,086
Grand Bahama	430	869	911	1,780
Harbour Island	1½	573	659	1,232
Inagua	560	748	705	1,453
Long Cay	8	257	242	499
Long Island	130	1,610	1,952	3,562
Mayaguana	96	161	174	335
New Providence	58	5,492	7,042	12,534
Ragged Island and Cays ...	5	192	173	365
Rum Cay	29	235	294	529
San Salvador	160	2,090	2,568	4,658
Spanish Wells	½	271	263	534
Watling's Island	60	293	374	667
Total	4,403½	25,000	28,735	53,735

80. I append the report of the Medical Inspector:—

"The health conditions throughout the Colony were fairly satisfactory. During the greater part of the year no epidemic disease existed to any extent.

"Malarial fevers have been limited in prevalence and mild in type.

"Typhoid Fever.—There were a few cases of a very mild type.

"Whooping-cough was prevalent throughout the Colony, and there were many fatal cases.

"Varicella or chicken-pox was seen occasionally.

"Scabies or itch was very prevalent, amounting to an epidemic throughout the whole group of islands.

"Diarrhœa and Dysentery.—There was a large number of cases during the quarter ending December 31st, 1908, probably due to the drinking of impure water.

"Quarantine.—All vessels arriving from places declared infected by the Governor in Council were visited soon after arrival and released after examination of their crew and passengers, who were, in most cases, placed under medical surveillance.

"The nosological return shows the number of cases treated in the out-patients' departments of the Bahamas General Hospital, and the number of deaths are those which occurred in the various sections of that institution.

"The relative rate of mortality in the different seasons of the year shows a very slight difference, the highest occurring in the March quarter.

"The general sanitary condition of the island was very satisfactory; the water supply from the springs and cisterns abundant, and drainage good.

"The drains in the city are still badly in need of regrading and cementing. At present the porous stone absorbs the drain contents, and is consequently offens[illegible]

"Seventy-four (74) successful vaccinations were performed in New Providence during the year, and 740 in the out-island settlements."

81. With regard to the Medical Inspector's remarks as to drains in Nassau, there is no doubt that this is a question which should be taken in hand as well as the question of water supply. But until the city possesses a municipality of its own with power to raise local rates, it is difficult to see how any scheme can be carried out; it would be obviously undesirable to devote general revenue to a local purpose of this nature, although it is true that that course has been adopted in the matter of the installation of electric light in Nassau.

82. The following are the meteorological data for the past five years:—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
								inches.
1904	77·2	80·0	78·6	82·3	70·8	91	52·5	59·56
1905	77·6	80·2	78·9	83·7	71·9	92·5	52	54·69
1906	76·7	79·2	77·9	81·18	70·9	88	64	59·60
1907	77·5	80 0	78·8	82·3	71·5	91·5	60	39·30
1908	77·6	79·7	78·6	82·5	71·6	93	57	69·94*
Average for five years.	78·7	79·8	79·2	82·4	71·3	91·2	57·1	56·62

* Hurricane year.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH STATISTICS.

83. The postal revenue for 1908-9 was £3,485, as against £3,820 in 1907-8.

The expenditure was £505, as against £481.

84. The sale of stamps realized £2,321, as against £2,527 in the previous year.

85. The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 656,330, as against 644,808 in 1907-8.

86. The following table compares the quantities of postal matter received and despatched in 1907-8 and 1908-9:—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1907-8.	1908-9.	Increase.	Decrease.	1907-8.	1908-9.	Increase.	Decrease.
Foreign—								
Letters and postcards	251,011	255,865	4,854	—	168,443	161,707	—	6,736
Newspapers and books	93,224	95,569	2,345	—	13,872	21,559	7,687	—
Interinsular—								
Letters and postcards	40,370	40,450	80	—	50,279	52,748	2,469	—
Newspapers and books	912	777	—	135	26,697	27,655	958	—
Totals	385,517	392,661	7,279	135	259,291	263,669	11,114	6,736

The Parcel Post figures were as follows:—

	Number.	Value.
		£
From the United Kingdom ...	2,238 ...	3,158
„ United States ...	3,081 ...	2,173
To the United Kingdom ...	460 ...	636
„ United States	585 ...	316
Totals	6,364 ...	6,283

In 1907-8 the figures were—

Parcels from the United Kingdom 2,382, value £4,263.
Parcels from the United States 2,982, value £2,079.

Money orders issued and paid were as follows:—

Countries.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
Canada	27	198	30	50
United Kingdom	603	1,220	89	336
United States	1,515	3,763	509	1,354
Totals	2,145	5,181	628	1,740

The figures in 1907-8 were—

Issued 2,018, value £3,799. Paid 492, value £1,871.

1,667 postal orders, value £639, were issued on the United Kingdom, and 282, value £163, drawn.

87. The penny postage rate is in force from the Bahamas to the United States, but not as yet from the United States to this Colony.

88. A new mail contract has been entered into with the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company, the subsidy having been increased from £1,500 to £2,500. It provides for cheap summer return tickets to New York, reduces the scheduled rates of freight, doubles the prescribed size of the steamers, and requires that a surgeon be carried.

89. A new contract has also been made with the Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company providing for the service between Nassau and Florida, which is necessitated by the operations of the hotel owned by the Florida East Coast Hotel Company and open for American and other visitors during the short winter season. The subsidy in this case has been raised from £3,500 to £5,000 a year.

90. Tenders have been accepted for the various Out-Island Mail Passenger and Freight Services for a period of three years

from the 1st July, 1909, for which the Legislature have voted £3,000 a year. These services have hitherto been and will continue to be performed by locally owned schooners.

91. A Parcel Post Convention has been signed with Canada, by which parcels can be received from that country by steamers of the Elder-Dempster Line. There is no provision at present for sending parcels to Canada.

92. The revenue of the Telegraph Department was £1,668 and the expenditure £548. In the previous year the revenue was £1,248 and the expenditure £545.

93. 4,251 messages passed over the cable between Nassau and Jupiter (Florida), of which 377 were to and from Great Britain. The total number in 1907 was 3,847.

The cable was opened 17 years ago, the first message having been sent by her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

94. 225 telephone stations are now working in Nassau and suburbs. The revenue for the year 1909-10 is put at £912 10*s*., and the expenditure (inclusive of interest and sinking fund) at £516 16*s*. The enterprise, which is worked by the Govern ment, is in a satisfactory condition, despite the disastrous effects of last year's hurricane.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

95. Unfortunately the Colony was visited by two hurricanes in September and October, 1908, and not since the hurricane of 1866 has so much damage been done, although the loss of life was not nearly so heavy as on that occasion or in the hurricane of 1899.

96. The hurricane of the 11th-13th September was part of the same storm that devastated Grand Turk. The first intimation that reached headquarters was a telegram from the Governor of Jamaica on the 19th forwarding a message from the Commissioner of Long Cay reporting destruction to property and shipping, and great distress. Subsequently it was ascertained that Long Island, Rum Cay, and Watlings Island had also suffered severely. Schooners were at once despatched with relief supplies, and the Governor of Jamaica was asked to send H.M.S. "Scylla" (which had just been to the Turks Islands) to the eastern islands with supplies. His Excellency the Governor Sir William Grey Wilson also himself sailed in the Imperial Lighthouse Tender "Carnarvon" to inspect the stricken settlements.

97. On the 1st October another hurricane from the western end of Cuba swept over New Providence, doing great damage to crops and shipping. It also caused considerable havoc at Eleuthera particularly, Governor's Harbour, and at Abaco.

98. A special session of the Legislature was convened and £8,000 voted for relief, repair and reconstruction of public

buildings, gifts of material to distressed persons, &c., as described in paragraph 42 of this Report.

99. In the first hurricane 15 persons were killed and 30 severely wounded; in the second only one life was lost. The rainfall, during and after both storms, was abnormal, with the result that the root crops were almost entirely destroyed. But it seems to be a fact that the *ultimate* effect of this excessive rainfall on the soil is good, and reports that are now coming in from the out-islands are by no means unsatisfactory in this respect. As stated by His Excellency the Governor in opening this year's session of the House:—

"As has been observed in previous hurricanes nature has been lavish in her efforts to repair the agricultural injury she has inflicted."

100. Electric light has just been installed by the Government in the City of Nassau at a total estimated expenditure of £15,500, by a system of direct current and large cables, the producing engines using suction gas. It will probably be necessary to expend another £1,000 on a storage battery to provide for a day current for industrial purposes and for an all-night service. The light may fairly be described as eminently satisfactory.

101. The subjoined table compares the labour traffic in 1908 with that of the three previous years:—

—	Number of steam vessels entered outward bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiration of engagement.	
		To work on board ships (Stevedores).	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c.		From work on board ships (Stevedores).	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c.
Inagua:						
1905 ...	78	2,010	545	80	2,004	697
1906 ...	93	2,675	532	92	2,760	352
1907 ...	92	2,887	595	95	2,985	396
1908 ...	55	1,867	—	54	1,720	314
Long Cay:						
1905 ...	68	1,513	640	66	1,455	265
1906 ...	77	2,115	493	87	1,995	496
1907 ...	85	2,557	458	89	2,476	446
1908 ...	59	1,803	—	63	1,740	290

102. The Commissioner at Long Cay writes as follows:—

"The Hamburg American Line (German) is the sole employer of stevedore labourers, and the only line which called for labourers during the year. As compared with the previous year the number of labourers employed has fallen off very considerably, for owing to the continued depression of trade in the American markets several of the ships have been withdrawn from the West Indian line. The stevedores are engaged for discharging and loading cargoes, they are also employed in deck

work, and other duties incidental to a seaman's life. On some of the ships a few are also employed in the engine-room, for which they are paid 60 cents per day. The wages of the stevedores are 4*s*. a day, with overtime pay at 5*d*. per hour. Many of the stevedores are efficient watchmen. The foreman of each gang is paid 5*s*. (on the ship) for the proper performance of his duties. Of the 290 men returned from docks and railroad work, 126 were time-expired contract men from the Panama Rail Road Company's employ; the other (174) are for the most part stevedores who have deserted from the Hamburg-American ships in Colon, in search of employment, and who have returned home after an absence of from 3 to 6 months."

103. The Commissioner at Inagua writes:—

"The principal lines of steamers are the Hamburg-American and George D. Emery Company. Wages 50 cents a day. Overtime work 10 cents an hour. Sunday work, a dollar.

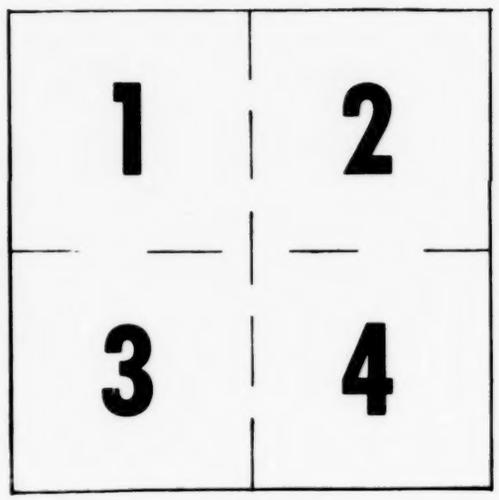
104. The Act for the protection of emigrant labourers referred to in paragraph 57 of my Report for 1906-7 and in paragraph 83 of my Report for 1907-8 was in force during the year. Whether as a consequence of the requirements of the Act or of conditions outside the Colony, the result has been that emigrant contract labour has ceased, although stevedores are still taken for work on board ship. An amending Bill has been passed by the Legislature this session, but I am unable to say at present what is likely to be its effect as regards the resumption of the labour traffic.

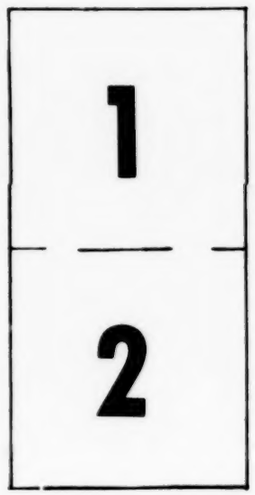
105. I have had the advantage this spring of making a tour of the Colony—my second. The journey was made in company with one of the Circuit Magistrates, and occupied six weeks, a schooner of some 40 tons being chartered for the purpose. I visited all the Islands except Watlings—(the landfall of Columbus), and was able to investigate conditions on the spot and get into touch with the people and the local officials. In my opinion these tours are of inestimable advantage; not only from the point of view of the better administration of the Government, but as showing the people of the out-islands that the Government takes great interest in their welfare.

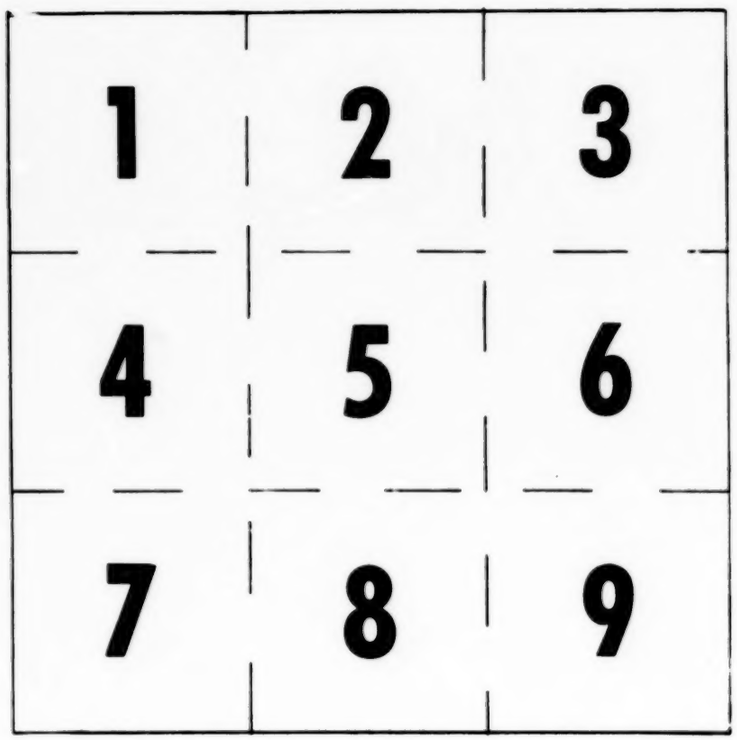
106. I regret that I am unable to express a favourable view of the trade prospects of the Colony in the immediate future. I take the three staple articles of export:—

107. *Sisal* appears to be at present in a somewhat parlous condition, prices having gone down so low that it can in many islands hardly repay cultivation. For this condition of affairs the duty charged in the United State of America and the cutting of immature fibre are no doubt partly responsible, but the main cause is the growing competition and enormously increasing output of other countries, and against this factor it is difficult to see what remedy there can be. The export of badly-cleaned and immature fibre might be checked if the buyers would co-operate and establish an Exchange, on lines similar to the Sponge Exchange, at which the fibre would be sold at auction, and if the Legislature would provide the means for Government

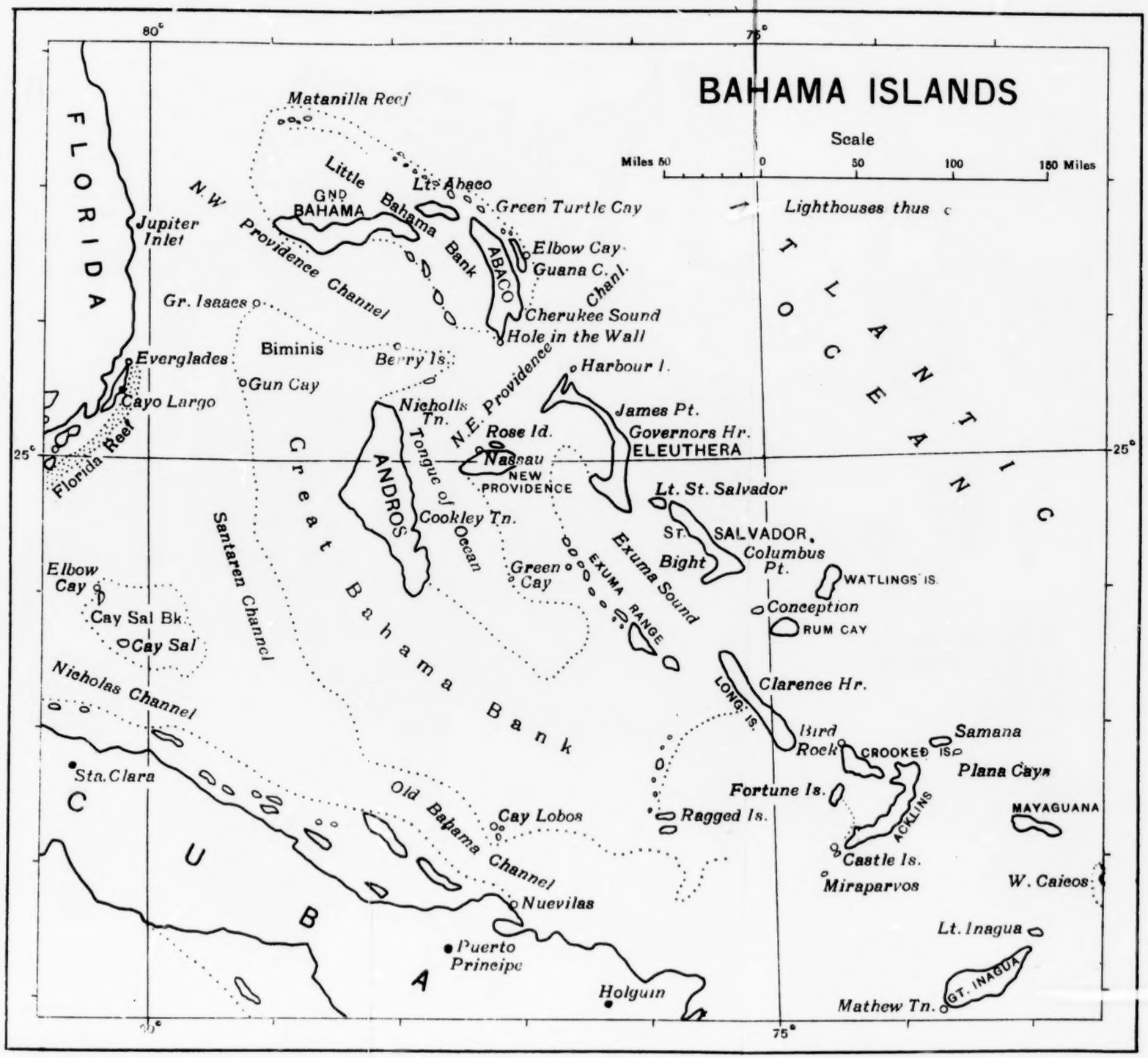
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.







BAHAMA ISLANDS



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1909.

inspection; but at present, I was told by many people in the out-islands, the buyer or agent often pays the peasant cultivator no more for good fibre than for bad, so that there is no incentive to careful cultivation. The introduction of suitable and cheap hand-presses and still more the establishment of a central twine factory would do a great deal to foster this industry.

108. *Pineapple* cultivation, too, has gone down. The canning factories are not taking so much fruit as heretofore. Here again we have to contend against high American duties and foreign competition, particularly Hawaii. But there are local causes in the fact that in some places the soil is played out, and that suitable fertilizers are not applied. The Board of Agriculture is however importing fresh stock from Cuba which it is hoped may produce better fruit.

109. *Sponge* has declined very considerably. In this case there is no doubt that the Colony is suffering from the want of expert knowledge and advice; but the House of Assembly has as yet failed to provide the necessary funds.

110. The following is a statement of liquor licences (as required by the Secretary of State) issued in the Colony and revenue derived therefrom in 1907 and 1908.

Year.	General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount received.
					£ s. d.
1907 ...	82	26	1	Nil.	1,405 0 0
1908 ...	74	24	2	1	1,184 13 4

General, Hotel, and Special Licences are retail licences.

W. Hart Bennett,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas,
31st July, 1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	"
599	Falkland Islands	"
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	"
605	Weihaiwei	"
606	Seychelles	"
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 650.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1909-10.

(For Report for 1908-9, *see* No. 615.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1910.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN and SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or
E. PONSONBY, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1910.

[Cd. 4964-24.] *Price* 4*d.*

CONTENTS.

		Page
I.	Financial	4
II.	Trade, Agriculture, and Industries	6
III.	Legislation	18
IV.	Education	19
V.	Government Institutions	20
VI.	Judicial Statistics	22
VII.	Vital Statistics	23
VIII.	Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services	24
IX.	General Observations	26

Sketch Map.

No. 650.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1908–9, *see* No. 615.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Nassau,
August 15th, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, a copy of the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1909-1910, together with the report of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(17531—2.) Wt. 27349—387. 1125 & 85. 9/10. D & S. A 2

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1910.

1. In submitting this Report, I may explain that, although the figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1910 (the financial year of the Colony), the trade and customs statistics are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1909, while all other information is brought up as nearly as possible to the date of the Report.

FINANCIAL.

2. The revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1910, was £77,578, as compared with £81,862 in 1908-9, or a decrease of £4,284, and less by £3,519 than the average of the previous five years.

3. The following are the comparative details:—

Heads of Revenue.	1908–9.	1909–10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	65,509	64,023	—	1,486
2. Port Dues, &c.	400	364	—	36
3. Licences and Internal Revenue	3,035	3,162	127	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements ...	4,995	2,055	—	2,940
5. Post and Telegraph	4,858	4,495	—	363
6. Rents	271	258	—	13
7. Widows and Orphans Pensions	100	100	—	—
8. Miscellaneous	409	46	—	363
9. Interest	767	222	—	545
10. Excise Duty	69	—	—	69
11. Electric Light Fund	1,449	2,853	1,404	—
Totals	81,862	77,578	1,531	5,815

Nett decrease £4,284.

The sale of Crown land is not included in the above.

4. The decreases call for little remark. The customs revenue, although lower than during the previous year, was about the average of the previous years as the following figures show:—

Customs Revenue.

Years.	Amount. £
1901-2	65,189
1902-3	59,416
1903-4	59,881
1904-5	59,066
1905-6	64,422
1906-7	65,987
1907-8	75,144
1908-9	65,509
1909-10	64,023
Annual Average	£64,293

"Reimbursements" includes sums unexpended on account of the previous year and refunded by various Boards to the Treasury —always a varying and unestimable amount.

5. The expenditure amounted to £92,858 as against £99,655 in 1908-9, or a decrease of £6,797, and more by £10,129 than the average of the previous five years.

The following are the details:—

Service.	1908–9.	1909–10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Public Debt Charges	6,690	6,655	—	35
2. Pensions	3,303	3,833	530	—
3. House of Assembly	1,473	1,447	—	26
4. Legislative Council	197	199	2	—
5. Governor	1,258	1,245	—	13
6. Colonial Secretary	1,013	1,007	—	6
7. Receiver-General	3,056	2,895	—	161
8. Judicial	6,587	8,194	1,607	—
9. Registrar	638	551	—	87
10. Constabulary and Police	5,604	5,851	247	—
11. Fire	1,546	991	—	565
12. Civil Engineer	699	925	226	—
13. Audit	438	480	42	—
14. Post Office	9,243	8,787	—	456
15. Telegraph and Telephone	1,347	1,021	—	326
16. Education	6,196	6,400	204	—
17. Public Libraries	506	504	—	2
18. Port and Marine	2,022	2,151	129	—
19. Medical	602	524	—	78
22. Charitable Institutions	7,380	7,923	543	—
21. Prisons	1,911	1,994	83	—
22. Public Works	18,180	13,654	—	4,526
23. Miscellaneous	7,364	6,076	—	1,288
24. Board of Agriculture	1,000	1,500	500	—
25. Marine Product Board	300	300	—	—
26. Electric Light Construction ...	9,773	4,890	—	4,883
27. Electric Light Fund...	1,329	2,861	1,532	—
Total	99,655	92,858	5,645	12,442

Nett decrease, £6,797.

6. The decreases, as compared with the previous year, are due to smaller expenditure on Public Works throughout the Colony, on electric light and on the hurricanes of 1908. It would be well if in future the Treasury would show separately the expenditure on hurricanes and famine relief, which, naturally, cannot be estimated.

7. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue (+) or Expenditure (−).
	£	£	£
1905–6	77,294	70,256	+ 7,038
1906–7	79,058	71,087	+ 7,971
1907–8	89,694	79,790	+ 9,904
1908–9	81,862	99,655	−17,793
1909–10	77,578	92,858	−15,280

8. The following table shows the excess of assets over liabilities for the past five years:—

	£
On 31st March, 1906	27,092
,, ,, 1907	35,140
,, ,, 1908	45,692
,, ,, 1909	16,207
,, ,, 1910	6,597

9. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent., was £113,126, and now stands at £59,447.

The annual charge on amount of interest and sinking funds is £6,580.

The existing debt will be wholly liquidated by the year 1926.

10. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid-up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to £66,000 was established in 1888 and is now continuing to do business under the Banking Act of 1909. It issues local notes of the values of £1 and four shillings.

The Royal Bank of Canada has also a branch in Nassau.

11. The current coins are British silver and copper, and a very little gold. United States gold is current to some extent in the southern islands of the Colony and a very little American silver. United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted if of $5 and upwards at the same rate as United States gold, if below $5 at the rate of four shillings to the dollar.

12. The financial condition of the Colony, although sound, cannot be described as flourishing. The increases in the fixed charges referred to in my Report for 1908-9, coupled with a dwindling revenue, are likely to result in a considerable deficit in the transaction of the current financial year, and that without taking into account any expenditure that may become necessary on famine or hurricane relief.

If the progress of the Colony and its financial prosperity are to be assured, it will become the inevitable duty of the new House of Assembly to face the problem of raising additional revenue.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

13. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1909, were valued at £343,489 (including £731 specie), as against £369,490 (including £2,364 specie) in 1908.

14. The following table shows whence they came, and, in this connection, I repeat paragraph 14 of my Report for 1907-8:—

"But, inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in "this Colony, these figures are not to be relied upon. There "is no direct communication with the United Kingdom, and "consequently many goods really imported from that country "are classified as if imported from the United States where "they are transhipped. It is only when merchants specially

"enter their goods as having been imported from the United "Kingdom that they are so classified."

Country.	Value, 1908. £	Value, 1909. £
United States of America ...	253,622*	229,227†
United Kingdom	93,538	92,564
Canada	8,152	9,766
British West Indies	6,635	5,202
Foreign countries other than America	7,543	6,730
Total	£369,490	£343,489

15. The values of articles imported as compared with the previous year were as follows:—

Articles.	Value 1908.	Value 1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alcoholic liquors:—	£	£	£	£
Alcohol	32	32	—	—
Ale, cider, and porter ...	2,293	5,216	2,923	—
Brandy	189	159	—	30
Gin	3,317	3,201	—	116
Rum	3,507	3,615	108	—
Whisky	1,939	1,998	59	—
Wines	1,148	2,041	893	—
Automobiles	579	384	—	195
Bicycles	361	387	26	—
Butter and cheese	8,143	8,538	395	—
Cattle	1,619	2,461	842	—
Coffee	2,792	2,304	—	488
Corn, cornmeal, and hominy ...	16,015	12,746	—	3,269
Coal	2,882	2,912	30	—
Electrical appliances	10,021	2,580	—	7,441
Fertilizers	1,344	998	—	346
Flour	41,150	41,439	289	—
Gasolene	668	577	—	91
Hay, oats, and bran	5,823	6,637	814	—
Horses, mules, and donkeys ...	1,250	772	—	478
Ice	1,688	2,047	359	—
Lard	6,502	7,267	765	—
Lumber, shingles, laths, mahogany, crate ends.	6,206	9,032	2,826	—
Machinery	29,599	8,183	—	21,416
Meat, fresh	5,197	5,275	78	—
Meat, salt	13,007	12,876	—	131
Oil, kerosene	4,208	4,361	153	—
Potatoes and onions	2,013	1,682	—	331
Railroad stock	6,262	3,506	—	2,756
Rice	10,980	12,082	1,102	—
Rope and Canvas	4,736	5,334	598	—
Carried forward ...	195,470	170,642	12,260	37,088

* Includes specie £2,364.
† Includes specie £731.

Articles.	Value 1908.	Value 1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	195,470	170,642	12,260	37,088
Soap	2,879	2,538	—	341
Sugars	11,791	13,162	1,371	—
Steam and motor launches ...	391	—	—	391
Tea	838	883	45	—
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	7,171	7,801	630	—
Unenumerated :—				
Earthenware, glassware, and furniture.	34,859	39,997	5,138	—
Hardware and tinware ...	16,747	11,034	—	5,713
Preserved meat and fish ...	21,106	24,893	3,787	—
Textile fabrics	57,064	54,287	—	2,777
All other articles	18,810	17,521	—	1,289
	367,126	342,758	23,231	47,599
Specie	2,364	731	—	1,633
Totals	369,490	343,489	23,231	49,232

Nett decrease, £26,001.

16. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the imports were as follows :-

Heading.	America.	England.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	125,327	38,330	16,162	179,819
2. Raw Materials	11,561	[illegible]	1,632	13,881
3. Manufactured Materials :—				
Textile	21,240	36,499	1,902	—
Metal	20,492	7,137	344	149,058
Other	49,876	9,910	1,658	—
4. Coin	731	—	—	731
Totals	229,227	92,564	21,698	343,489

17. These figures call for no comment except that the large decrease in machinery is due to fewer importations by the American Lumber Company at Abaco, and in electrical appliances to fewer importations by the Government on account of the installation of electric light in Nassau.

18. The exports for the year ended 31st December, 1909, were valued at £171,442 (including £2,750 specie), as against £183,239 (including £4,057 specie) in 1908. £165,116 represented the produce of the Colony.

19. The following table gives the quantities and values of most of the articles of Colonial produce exported :—

Article.	1908.		1909.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Cotton ... ... Lbs.	13,090	319	11,931	411
Fruit—				
Coconuts ... ... No.	6,860	15	8,860	31
Grape-fruit ... ... „	276,576	1,264	365,233	1,404
Oranges ... ... „	105,059	93	738,180	795
Pineapples, fresh ... ... Doz.	118,526	11,856	52,351	3,629
„ preserved ... Cases	59,839	10,997	46,639	8,999
Lumber, &c.—				
Bark ... ... Lbs.	133,156	2,169	82,724	1,379
Hardwood ... ... —	—	1,373	—	1,122
Lumber ... ... Feet	178,117	238	83,008	249
Salt ... ... Bshls.	4,900	82	54,980	171
Shells, conch ... ... No.	359,572	1,215	606,013	2,086
„ turtle ... ... Lbs.	7,273	7,493	5,471	6,157
Sisal ... ... „	5,281,449	42,627	5,846,447	48,805
Sponge ... ... „	1,601,718	94,238	1,372,316	87,657

20. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade, the exports were as follows:—

Heading.	£	Value. £
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics		16,314
2. Raw materials—		
Textile	138,252	
Other	10,303	
		148,555
3. Manufactured materials—		
Textile	340	
Metal	1,649	
Other	1,834	
		3,823
4. Coin		2,750
Total		£171,442

21. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	Value, 1908. £	Value, 1909. £
United States of America ...	119,841	94,641
United Kingdom	30,558	22,480
Canada	110	1,569
British West Indies	101	125
Foreign countries other than America	24,917	46,301
Totals	£175,529	£165,116

22. These figures are, however, somewhat misleading, inasmuch as certain exports to Canada, and probably to other places, appear as exports to America for the reason that they were shipped viâ New York.

The Elder, Dempster steamers do not yet touch at Nassau on their way to Canada.

23. A comparative return of the values of imports and exports for the past five years is subjoined:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1905	308,544	222,905	531,449
1906	329,115	221,925	551,040
1907	372,937	238,232	611,169
1908	369,490	183,239	552,729
1909	343,489	171,442	514,931

24. There are no mines. Coralline limestone for building is found in most of the larger islands valued at the quarry at about 10*d*. per cubic foot.

25. The export of tinned pineapples in 1909 was 46,639 cases valued at £8,999. In 1908 the figures were 59,839 cases value £10,997, and in 1907 68,349 cases value £13,579.

The J. S. Johnson Factory bought in 1909 some £8,000 worth as against over £16,000 worth in 1906. A still further decrease is looked for this year owing to the Hawaiian competition, and the outlook for cultivators cannot be described as a happy one.

The Board of Agriculture, with the help of an increased grant from the Legislature, imported and distributed to growers 792,000 red Spanish pineapples slips at a cost of £1,443. They were mostly distributed on condition that half the increase of stock for three years should be given to the Board for re-distribution. By this means, and with the 180,000 slips imported in 1908, and improved fertilisation, the Board hopes that the position of this industry may revive, but the important thing is to find if possible a market for this commodity elsewhere than in the United States of America.

26. There were seven sisal factories in New Providence. The J. S. Johnson Company have four factories with four cleaning machines.

The Bahamas Fibre and Produce Company have three factories and about 1,400 acres. Two Todd and one Villamor machines were in use.

At Little Abaco the Sisal Fibre Company has two cleaning machines; one Todd and one Terrorella machines are in use; about 5,000 acres are planted, and thirteen miles of railroad laid. A disastrous fire burnt out 3,000 acres of this farm, and operations have been suspended for two years.

At Whale Cay, Berry Islands, there is one factory with one Todd cleaning machine, and about 250 acres. The farm suffered considerable damage by the hurricane of October, 1909.

Messrs. R. H. Sawyer and Company have a factory at Abaco. At San Salvador there are two factories with three cleaning machines which, however, are not in operation. These plantations are nearly exhausted.

There are two factories at Inagua, one only in operation.

27. The most important industry of the peasant cultivator is the raising of sisal fibre. Over 20,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation. But the price is very low, and the rapid extension of the industry in other countries is likely to have its effect on this Colony.

Complaints of inmature and badly cleaned fibre continue—a matter which can only be remedied by legislation or by combination among local buyers to give a higher price for the mature and well-cleaned product.

There is yet to be invented a good and cheap hand-cleaning machine, and, if our fibre is to hold its own, means must be found for washing it in fresh instead of salt water.

Exports in 1909, 5,846,447 lbs., value £48,805.
,, 1908, 5,281,449 ,, ,, £42,627.

28. A new lumber mill was erected at the American Company Works at Wilson City, Abaco, which will be capable of sawing 100,000 feet in 24 hours.

Extensive damage to the machinery has since occurred, resulting in a temporary suspension of operations.

3,606,635 feet were sawn in 1909 as compared with 2,256,885 feet in 1908, but comparatively little of this was exported.

The plant and buildings owned by the Sisal Cleaning Company at Mastic Point, Andros, for the manufacture of lumber and shingles, were destroyed by fire during the early part of the year.

29. The report on the sponge fishing for the year by Sir James Young, Chairman of the Marine Products Board, is appended:—

"During the past nine months the Board closed the sponging grounds, "known as the Northern Bight, at Andros Island. This locality for "many years has yielded a good supply of sponges.

"The Commissioner, Mr. Forsythe, called the attention of the Board "to the condition of these beds, stating that there was great need for "protecting the young sponges that remained, the marketable sponges "having been overfished.

"This area was closed on the 1st day of August and two watchmen "appointed to guard against poaching.

"Reports from the Acklin sponge beds, which were closed to fishing "on 1st March, are encouraging; these beds, as well as the beds in the "Northern Bight, have been marked in several places with buoys; "specimens of the sizes of the sponges taken from where the buoys were "laid have been forwarded to the Board. The specimens from Acklin's "Island indicate that the reef and yellow sponges have grown faster "than the grass since the destruction by the hurricane of the previous "year.

"Instructions have been given to the watchmen in these districts to "forward specimens from the marked places quarterly, so as to enable "the Board to form an opinion as to the time it requires for the various "sponges to grow to marketable sizes.

"The rigid inspection of the wool and velvet sponges from the Bight "of Abaco, where the restrictions as to size is still in force, has shown "good results, and fewer cases of violation of this rule have been "detected by the Inspector.

"The Board is able to report that the sponging grounds along the "Eleuthera shore are gradually recovering from the effects of the hurri-"cane which uprooted and destroyed these grounds entirely in 1883.

"The sales of sponge on the Exchange from January 1st, 1909, to "December 31st, 1909, were £71,367 against £50,603 the previous year. "While this is much better than the last year, it does not reach the "average for the past five years.

"Satisfactory results have followed the rules protecting conchs being "overfished near inhabited islands as well as the rules prohibiting the "capture of small turtle.

"Most of the tortoise shell now exported is brought to market from "the high seas where the captured turtle are usually of a large size. "The exports for this year amount to £6,107.

"The Board again express the hope that the Legislature will soon be "able to place it in a position to obtain the services of a biologist to "assist and advise it in developing the resources of the sea.

"The Board would further suggest that an aquarium in connection "with a biological station would be most interesting as an exhibition of "such a beautiful variety of submarine specimens that are found in "our waters would not fail to create greater interest in the sea products "of the Colony.

"The Board of Public Works has consented to the use of Fort "Montague for this purpose, the estimated cost for tanks, pumps, "repairs, &c., to the interior of the fort being only about £200."

30. The following extract from the "New York Times," giving an account of what is described as the "World's Biggest Sponge," which was found in the Bahamas, may be of interest to general readers:—

"The old and historic City of Nassau, New Providence, Bahama "Islands, experienced quite a sensation about the middle of March in "the matter of sponges. The principal industry of Nassau is the gather-"ing, curing, and selling of sponges, and quite a large fleet of schooners "and many coloured men, composing their crews, are engaged in "gathering them around the neighbouring islands. One of these "schooners came to port recently, having as part of its cargo the "largest fine sponge ever taken from the Atlantic Ocean. When laid "out upon the dock among thousands of other sponges classified for sale "by auction, this particular one attracted general attention and admira-tion. It is what is known as a wool sponge, which is the finest quality known among spongers. It is in form perfectly round, arched like "an immense fruit cake, and is six feet in circumference, and two feet "in diameter in every direction. When taken from the water it weighed "between eighty and ninety pounds, and the fortunate man who captured "it had a hard time landing it in his dory. Now that it has dried out "and been relieved of all excrescences it weighs about twelve pounds.

"Its equal in size, fine quality, and attractive appearance has never "been seen. When it was presented for sale it was put in a class by "itself, and there were many competitors in the bidding for it, every "dealer in sponges being anxious to secure it. It was finally awarded "to the firm of O. F. Pritchard at $23. It has been suggested to "Mr. Pritchard that the National Museum in Washington would be "glad to receive such a curiosity.

"This immense sponge is peculiar in that it had no fixed habitation, "no permanent attachment to anything, but is what is known as a "'roller,' being tossed about by the waves in every direction. Rolling "about in this way at the mercy of the waves, it naturally acquired its "present perfectly round shape. It reminds one of the 'tumble weed' "of the western prairies that is blown about in the winds, assuming its "round, ball-like shape, as it rolls about in any direction the wind "chooses to give it.

"The gathering, curing, selling, and exporting of sponges is the "principal industry of Nassau. The sales of sponges for exports average "about $500,000 annually—most of them going to England and France,

"but some of the coarser ones find a market in Russia. A large number "of small vessels, nearly four hundred, are engaged in the work of gather- "ing sponges, which are found in the vicinity of many of the islands "of the Bahama group. The vessels are manned, according to their size, "by nine, eleven, thirteen, or fifteen men, always an odd number, the "odd man being the cook and in charge of the schooner while the others "are out in dories hunting for sponges.

"There is a popular idea that sponges are secured by divers, who go "under water and detach them from their holding among the rocks. "This is not true as regards the sponging trade in the Bahamas, how- "ever it may be conducted elsewhere. The men go out in dories, like "the fishermen of Gloucester, and through a water glass search for the "sponges. This water glass is simply an ordinary pail or bucket with "a glass bottom. Holding one of these over the side of his dory, the "sponger locates the sponges, and then with a long pole, having a hook "on the end, he seizes upon the mass, tears it loose, and gathers it into "his boat, whence it is later transferred to the vessel. When a quantity "has thus been secured, the vessel puts in to one of the islands, where "a cache or pen has been previously established at the water's edge. "The sponges are thrown into this pen, where they are left for several "days, being washed by the ebb and flow of the tides, until the animal "matter, sand, and other extraneous substances have been washed "away. While this is going on the vessel returns to its hunting grounds "and continues its labours until a sufficient cargo has been procured to "warrant the return to port. A sponger is usually absent from two to "three months, and the return of one or more to port is an event of "almost daily occurrence.

"The industry is carried on on the co-operative plan, the captain and "crew sharing with the owner of the vessel in the profits of their work. "The owner furnishes the schooner fully equipped, and supplies the "necessary provisions for the voyage. On the return of the vessel the "sponges are turned over to the Sponge Exchange. They are then "spread out on the dock, sorted, and classified according to quality. "Purchasers carefully go over the exhibits and make their tenders for "the different lots to the officials of the Exchange. These tenders are "then examined and the awards made to the different buyers. Out of "the proceeds of such a sale the owner of the vessels gets one-third, "expenses are then deducted, and the remainder divided among the "vessel's crew.

"It is a hard life these spongers lead, never especially remunerative, "while quite frequently the men are exposed to all the hardships and "perils of a seafaring life, without any compensation whatever, their "voyage having been a failure. The crews are all coloured men, belong- "ing to Nassau or the neighbouring islands."

31. The crop of oranges and grape-fruit has decreased enormously. In 1907 707,975 grape-fruits were exported, value £3,170; in 1908 only 276,576, value £1,264, and in 1909 365,233, value £1,404.

1,599,860 oranges were exported in 1907, value £3,007, but only 105,069, value £93, in 1908. There was an improvement last year, the figures being 738,180, value £795.

More care in handling and shipping and inspection of shipments is needed to make this industry anything of a success.

32. An interesting *résumé* of the progress of agriculture is contained in the subjoined article published in the "Nassau Guardian":—

"The 'Bulletin' of the Agricultural Department for the March "quarter as usual contains a quantity of information about the agri- "cultural resources and prospects of the Colony and on the work of the "various branches of the Department. During the period under review "activity along lines of improvement is stated to have been well main- "tained, and the Curator pays a tribute to the Commissioners in the

"Out Islands for the interest they have displayed and practical steps "they have taken in furthering the cultivation of the various agricul- "tural products of the Colony. During last summer abundant crops "were harvested, especially corn, which is said to have been the largest "for the last twenty years; but the strong winds of last October and "November, together with the drought which has been so generally "prevalent since have affected very adversely the winter crops. The "quantity of sisal fibre exported last year was 5,281,449 lbs.—or nearly "a million pounds more than were shipped in 1908—valued at £46,627. "Owing to the continued low prices its value was, however, slightly less "than that exported in the previous year. Recent advices from New "York record another drop in current prices, and it is certainly most "unfortunate that this depression continues in this important industry.

"Pineapples, including canned fruit, were exported to the value of "£22,853, and particulars are given of the recent importations of fresh "stock from Cuba by the Board of Agriculture, and the steps taken for "their distribution among the planters. There was a pronounced falling "off in the value of grape-fruit and oranges exported of no less than "£4,500, a serious difference, and the 'Bulletin' thinks that the in- "dustry lacks the care in handling and shipping that it receives in "Florida and California, and that inspection of shipments from the "Colony should be instituted. The export of cotton increased slightly, "and there are promising indications of a revival of this staple; pine- "apple growers are giving it their attention and 100 acres will be planted "in the Governor's Harbour district and another hundred acres at "Long Island and Exuma. Other articles are reviewed in detail, toma- "toes being especially mentioned as showing considerable development, "about 700 acres being under cultivation in the Harbour Island district, "and there is little doubt that if regular and speedy steam communica- "tion were available with Canada a ready market would be found there, "especially during the winter months, for the excellent variety of this "popular vegetable grown in the Bahamas.

"Of the revenues of the Board, £262 was expended in salaries, £142 "for travelling allowances, £112 in experiments in the Botanic Station, "and £640 under the heading of general expenditure. During the year "the Curator visited most of the Out Islands, where he delivered "lectures and interviewed the farmers: he is of opinion that progress "there is hampered by the lack of 'demonstration farms,' and he advises "that the £200 now spent in experimenting at the Botanic Station should "be devoted to experimental work in the best agricultural localities of "the Colony. Practical object lessons of this description, carried out "on the spot, would no doubt have their value and would enable the "farmer more completely to understand the most advantageous methods "and to realize their value, and should also secure their more active "co-operation. This would be but the legitimate development of the "policy initiated by the establishment of an experimental Botanic "Station, and to fulfil their purpose future operations might very "well be conducted in the midst of the people they are intended to "benefit."

33. Comparative returns of exports of sponge, sisal, pineapples (fresh and preserved), grape-fruit, oranges and coconuts for the past five years are annexed:—

Comparative Return of Sponge Exported, 1905–1909.

Country to which exported.	1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
United Kingdom	95,499	5,387	175,938	10,258	170,120	15,729	486,912	21,937	233,247	14,450
Canada	1,457	420	—	—	10,895	1,638	50	15	2,076	420
United States of America	864,658	60,548	783,386	45,296	910,603	50,415	865,733	47,799	667,841	27,237
France	100,715	11,956	140,253	21,161	122,358	20,180	72,730	9,314	87,250	13,245
Holland	158,488	14,519	111,074	12,372	111,697	13,140	8,896	1,632	124,589	13,238
Germany	254,494	20,096	307,173	26,206	320,968	28,198	147,161	12,783	242,919	18,507
Russia	10,441	666	1,113	94	—	—	524	57	14,394	560
Italy	4,396	125	9,863	140	14,036	399	19,712	701	—	—
Totals	1,490,148	113,753	1,528,800	115,527	1,660,677	129,699	1,601,718	94,238	1,372,316	87,657

Comparative Return of Grape-fruit Exported, 1905–1909.

	No.	£	No.	£	No	£	No.	£	No.	£
United Kingdom	10,000	46	7,500	31	938	4	—	—	10,880	42
Canada	56,588	192	6,988	58	293,800	1,970	—	—	42,000	97
United States	467,473	2,159	415,646	1,748	413,237	1,696	276,576	1,264	312,353	1,265
Totals	534,061	2,397	430,134	1,837	707,975	3,670	276,576	1,264	365,233	1,404

Comparative Return of Oranges Exported, 1905–1909.

Country to which exported.	1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
United Kingdom	4,500	5	—	—	3,000	3	—	—	—	—
Canada	1,086,000	887	82,000	148	1,089,400	2,369	—	—	341,560	449
United States	615,818	496	485,269	635	507,460	635	105,059	93	396,620	346
Totals	1,706,318	1,388	567,269	783	1,599,860	3,007	105,059	93	738,180	795

Comparative Return of Coconuts Exported, 1905–1909.

United States	15,950	34	297,850	710	316,250	955	6,860	15	8,860	31
Total	15,950	34	297,850	710	316,250	955	6,860	15	8,860	31

Comparative Return of Sisal Exported, 1905–1909.

	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
United Kingdom	131,895	1,625	—	—	26,598	308	—	—	—	—
United States	2,908,950	35,897	3,722,733	38,702	4,279,484	46,361	5,281,449	42,627	5,846,447	48,805
Canada	—	—	144,301	1,438	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3,040,845	37,522	3,867,034	40,140	4,306,082	46,669	5,281,449	42,627	5,846,447	48,805

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Fresh) Exported, 1905–1909.

	Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.		Dozen.	
United Kingdom	197,324	19,759	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242	118,526	11,856	52,351	3,629
Canada	72	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	150	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	197,546	19,776	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242	118,526	11,856	52,351	3,629

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Preserved) Exported, 1905–1909.

	No.of cases.		No.of cases.		No.of cases.		No.of cases.		No.of cases.	
United States	58,499	10,640	116,010	18,736	61,984	12,532	59,839	10,997	45,964	8,888
Canada	6,032	1,058	1,186	354	6,365	1,047	—	—	675	111
United Kingdom	25	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	50	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	64,606	11,713	117,196	19,090	68,349	13,579	59,839	10,997	46,639	8,999

34. The Curator reports satisfactory work done at the Botanic Station. Further experiments are being made with Sea Island cotton; the hurricane unfortunately destroyed the crop the previous year.

The Third Agricultural Show was held in Nassau last March. It was the most successful yet held, and should do much to stimulate agriculture.

35. The total acreage of land granted is put at 369,298, and the total ungranted at 1,766,256. 365 acres of Crown land were sold in 1909, as against 156 in 1908.

Squatting prevails, and many lands granted years ago remain unsurveyed for want of staff.

36. The number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared during 1909, distinguishing nationalities, are given in the following return, which calls for no comment:—

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	149	8,574	144	8,225	39	67,200	38	65,992
American	22	4,853	21	5,693	105	232,220	104	231,857
Norwegian	1	399	1	399	2	3,337	2	3,337
Haytien	4	53	2	29	—	—	—	—
German	—	—	—	—	154	336,246	154	336,237
Totals	176	13,879	168	14,346	300	639,003	298	637,432
Totals 1908 ...	194	18,155	201	17,162	295	649,761	294	649,236

37. The number of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was:—

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1905	5	77
1906	13	229
1907	11	190
1908	8	491*
1909	9	133

III.—LEGISLATION.

38.—The Session of 1909 did not close until August, and the results were described in paragraph 44 of my report for last year.

* One of these is a schooner of 320 tons.

Although the session of the current year lasted for some five months, the legislative output was very meagre, resulting in the passage of only five measures (including the annual Appropriation Act, none of which were of any importance).

Several measures introduced by the Government were thrown out or postponed, among them a Widows and Orphans Pensions Bill, a Bill establishing an Appeal Court, and a Bill relating to Drugs and the Sale of Poisons.

It is perhaps natural that the House of Assembly in its expiring Session should have hesitated or declined to deal with the many important matters, including the financial state of the Colony and the need for increased taxation, which will most certainly have to be faced by the new House.

IV.—EDUCATION.

39. The following tables gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools:—

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average attendance.
1907...	46	7,151	6,026	4,498	16	1,295	1,199	741	62	8,446	7,225	5,239
1908...	46	7,055	5,917	4,425	14	1,275	1,136	703	60	8,320	7,053	5,128
1909...	45	7,091	6,067	4,786	16	1,330	1,285	834	61	8,421	7,352	5,620

40. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education was as follows:—

—	1907.	1908.	1909.
Principal teachers	46	46	45
Assistant teachers	7	8	10
Pupil teachers	4	3	3
Monitors	127	124	138
Sewing teachers	9	11	13
Industrial teacher	—	—	1
Students in training	3	4	5
Employed in aid schools	16	15	17
Total	212	211	232

41. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

—	1907.			1908.			1909.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board schools ...	3,160	2,866	6,026	3,097	2,820	5,917	3,161	2,906	4,786
Aided private schools	680	519	1,199	611	525	1,136	677	610	1,285
Church of England	728	813	1,541	740	855	1,595	786	901	1,657
Roman Catholic ...	209	283	492	212	285	497	240	326	566
Private schools ...	93	88	181	146	207	353	148	199	347
Wesleyan schools ...	19	34	53	20	22	42	41	43	84
Total ...	4,889	4,603	9,492	4,826	4,717	9,540	5,143	5,062	10,205

42. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board there were 31 maintained by the Church of England, 6 of which were in New Providence. Average roll 1,687, and average attendance 887.

There were also 4 Roman Catholic schools, total roll 566, and 14 private schools, roll 347.

43. By an Act passed in 1908, the annual vote to the Board of Education was increased from £5,000 to £6,000; the school age was also raised from 13 to 14 years.

There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education.

Private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College	31	27	58
Nassau Grammar School	17	—	17
St. Francis Xavier's Academy	14	34	48
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera)	17	12	29
Wilson City (Abaco)...	11	4	15
Total	90	77	167

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

44. The Bahamas General Hospital, formerly known as the New Providence Asylum, was established in 1809 as a poor-house and hospital for the poor and infirm of the Island. Since then the institution has grown steadily, and its functions have been extended in many directions. In 1845 it was placed under a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and now comprises the hospital proper, the infirmary, dispensary, and lunatic and leper wards.

The number of inmates on 1st January, 1909, was:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	20	21	41
Victoria Infirmary	15	13	28
Lunatic Asylum	16	12	28
Leper Asylum...	4	2	6
Total	55	48	103

521 patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 624, of whom 253 were discharged recovered, 85 relieved, 63 discharged not improved, and 102 died. Every year many cases are received in a hopeless—often moribund—condition .

At the close of the year 111 remained, distributed as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	25	17	42
Victoria Infirmary	18	12	30
Lunatic Asylum	20	13	33
Leper Ward	4	2	6
Total	67	44	111

45. The Assistant Surgeon visited 1,346 cases at their homes on certificate from the Relieving Officer.

46. The staff has been strengthened by the appointment of another nurse selected by the Colonial Nursing Association in London, the dispensary and lunatic wards improved and electric light installed.

47. The House of Assembly has this year cut down the vote for this institution from £6,000 to £5,000. It is a matter of doubt whether it can be efficiently maintained at the lower figure.

48. It is probable that the accommodation for lepers will in the near future have to be enlarged and improved, in view of the compulsory segregation of lepers, which will form the subject of legislation next session.

49. The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 30th June, 1909 (the end of the Savings Bank year), was 2,179; on 30th June, 1908, 2,297; and in 1907, 2,151.

The deposits and withdrawals were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1907	4,606	11,927	2,723	8,002
1908	4,524	13,264	3,150	12,104
1909	3,811	9,778	3,098	13,463

This is the first time that the withdrawals have exceeded the deposits; this does not necessarily imply a decrease of thrift on the part of the people, but may be ascribed to the fact that the local banks now offer better terms to depositors than does the Government.

50. The balance due to depositors on 30th June, 1909, was £28,643, as against £31,628 in 1908.

51. The Government has under consideration a scheme for further extending the benefits of the Bank to the Out Islands.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

52. The strength of the police force on the 1st January, 1910, was 74, 6 enlistments having been made during the year.

53. The total number of persons arrested and reported in New Providence in 1909 was 759, as against 757 in 1908.

54. A Bill was passed into law in 1909 for amending the Police and Constabulary Acts and effecting improvements in the positions and prospects of the force. The greater number of the members have come under the operation of the new Act. The total establishment under that Act is 113.

The new Act will at an early date effect the unification of the police and constabulary, which have hitherto been separate and distinct forces.

55. There were 20 outbreaks of fire in Nassau, of which 7 were probably incendiary. Insurance on property damaged amounted to £13,776.

An enquiry having been held into the organisation, etc., of the various brigades and the recommendations of the Commissioners, which involve large expenditure, will be one of the subjects for the consideration of the new House of Assembly.

56. The daily average number in prison was 69·2 as against 61·99 in 1908. The total number of prisoners committed in 1909 was 214 (as against 200 in the previous year), of whom 138 were men, 63 women, and 13 juveniles.

The sanitary condition of the prison was very good

Over 200 punishments were inflicted, which is a very large number, but the offences were not of so serious a character as in the previous year, and there was no case of adult flogging.

Prisoners were employed in weeding, cleaning, and keeping in order public grounds and roads, and in making bread, uniforms, and clothing for the gaol and hospital. A number of concrete poles for telephonic and electric light use have also been manufactured. But further means of employment are needed.

The supervision of prisoners leaves much to be desired, and it is a question for consideration whether a certain number of overseers should not be obtained from England.

There is no reformatory in this Colony.

Comparat sions, Table showing the number of offences, apprehen- ictions, and acquittals for the last four years.

—	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
The number of offences reported to the police; the number of persons brought before the magistrate.	2,585	2,755	2,562	2,725
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. Offences against property with violence to the person.	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against property ...	126	106	182	117
3. Other offences against the person ...	293	249	250	241
4. Other offences	1,435	1,582	1,444	1,475
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
1. Homicide	—	—	—	1
2. Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide.	—	2	—	—
3. Other offences against property ...	6	9	20	11
4. Other offences against the person ...	7	9	2	2
5. Other offences	8	5	3	6
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the Inferior Courts	451	520	426	493
2. In the Superior Courts	10	14	8	6

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

57. The population ascertained by the census of 1901 was 53,735.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1909, was 61,277, but this figure takes no account of emigration or immigration.

58. Births in 1909, 2,167.
Deaths „ 1,173.
Birth rate, 3·5 per cent.
Death rate, 1·9 per cent.

No death certificates are required in this Colony, but this is a matter which it is hoped to remedy by legislation next year.

59. It is in contemplation to take a census in 1911.

60. I append the report of the Acting Medical Inspector:—

"The general health of the Colony during the past year has been "satisfactory. No disease assumed epidemic proportions; a few sporadic "cases of typhoid fever occurred in the Island of New Providence from "an unexplained source of infection, but there have been fewer cases "than usual; careful enquiry has not discovered a human carrier.

"The street drainage of the City of Nassau, reported in previous years "as being in an unsatisfactory condition, is now a distinct menace to "the health of the community and radical measures are urgently needed.

"The scavenging of the city has been fairly good, but there is still "room for improvement in this respect.

"The water supply from wells and cisterns has been good and "plentiful.

"The rainfall during the year was 44·48 inches, a considerable decrease "from the previous year, when 69·94 were registered.

"For the first time for many years it has not been considered neces- "sary to declare a quarantine against Cuban ports during the summer "months, a tribute to the success of their fight against yellow fever.

"Anti-mosquito laws have not been enforced in this Colony as "rigorously as their importance demands, but I hope the coming year "will show an improvement in this respect.

"Seventy-two successful vaccinations were performed in New Pro- "vidence during the year and 593 on the Out Island settlements. The "lymph used did not prove as active as was expected, but the last "supply was from Dr. Renner's establishment, and so far as is known "is the best we have had for many years."

As to drainage see paragraph 81 of my Report for 1908-9.

61. The following are the meteorological data for the past six years:—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
								inches.
1904	77·2	80·0	78·6	82·3	70·8	91	52·5	59·56
1905	77·6	80·2	78·9	83·7	71·9	92·5	52	54·69
1906	76·7	79·2	77·9	81·18	70·9	88	64	59·60
1907	77·5	80·0	78·8	82·3	71·5	91·5	60	39·30
1908	77·6	79·7	78·6	82·5	71·6	93	57	69·94*
1909	76·5	79·5	78·0	81·5	71·7	90	54·5	44·48
Average for six years.	78·2	79·7	78·5	82·5	71·4	91	56·7	54·59

* Hurricane year.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

62. The postal revenue for 1909-10 was £3,433 as against £3,485 the previous year.

The expenditure was £491 as against £505.

63. Sales of stamps realised £2,016 as against £2,321 in 1908-9. The decrease is principally due to the reduction in the rates of postage to America, but the loss has been partly recouped by the increase in the allowances from the Postal Administration of America for conveyance of mails by contract steamers.

64. The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 712,564 as against 656,330 in 1908-9.

65. The following table compares the quantities of postal matter received and despatched in the two years:—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1908-9.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.	1908-9.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
Foreign—								
Letters and postcards	255,865	251,154	—	4,711	161,707	193,467	31,760	—
Newspaper and books	95,569	99,998	4,429	—	21,559	14,175	—	7,384
Interinsular—								
Letters and postcards	40,450	54,724	14,274	—	52,748	69,270	16,522	—
Newspapers and books	777	927	150	—	27,655	28,849	1,194	—
Totals	392,661	406,803	18,853	4,711	263,669	305,761	49,476	7,384

Total number of packets dealt with 712,564 as compared with 656,329 the previous year; increase 56,235, or more than double the figures of ten years ago.

66. The parcel post figures were as follows:—

	Number.	Value.
		£
From the United Kingdom ...	2,593	4,075
„ United States ...	3,793	2,617
„ Canada	56	137
To the United Kingdom ...	484	651
„ United States ...	584	330
„ Canada ...	4	1
Total	7,514	7,811

In 1908-9 the figures were:—

Parcels from the United Kingdom 2,238, value £3,158.
„ „ United States 3,081, „ £2,173.

67. The cash on delivery system forms a part of the parcel post service, and during the year £155 was collected and remitted to the senders of 63 parcels.

68. Money orders were issued and paid as follows:—

Countries.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
Canada	36	220	56	118
United Kingdom	520	1,129	71	279
United States	1,720	4,135	463	1,339
Totals	2,276	5,484	590	1,736

The figures in 1908-9 were:—

Issued 2,145, value £5,181; paid 628, value £1,740.

There is now a direct money order exchange between Inagua and the United Kingdom.

69. 1,823 postal orders, value £761 were issued on the United Kingdom, and 271, value £148 drawn.

70. The penny postage rate is in force from the Bahamas to the United States, but not as yet from the United States to this Colony.

71. As described in my last year's report new mail contracts have been entered into with the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company and the Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company, at subsidies of £2,500 and £5,000 a year respectively.

The former provides a fortnightly service to New York, the latter very frequent communication with Florida during the short tourist season.

72. Locally-owned schooners carry out the various mail, passenger, and freight services between Nassau and the out islands.

73. There is a parcel post convention with Canada by which parcels can be received from that country by steamers of the Elder, Dempster Line. Parcels can be sent to Canada via Mexico.

74. The revenue of the Telegraph Department was £1,453 and the expenditure £569. In the previous year the revenue was £1,668 and the expenditure £548.

3,796 messages passed over the cable between Nassau and Jupiter (Florida), of which 437 were to and from Great Britain. The total number in the previous year was 4,251.

75. 227 telephone stations are now working in Nassau and suburbs. The revenue for the year was £922 and the expenditure (inclusive of interest and sinking fund) £538. The enterprise, which is worked by the Government, is in a satisfactory condition and is in process of extension.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

76. Electric light has been installed by the Government in the city of Nassau, at a total estimated expenditure of £16,500, by a system of direct 100 volt current three-wire system large cables and storage batteries, the producing engines usng suction gas.

There seems reason to anticipate that the consumption by private subscribers will yield a financial profit.

77. The subjoined table compares the foreign labour traffic in 1909 with that of three previous years:—

—	Number of steam vessels outward bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiration of engagement.	
		To work on board ships (Stevedores).	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c.		From work on board ships (Steve dores).	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c.
Inagua:						
1906 ...	93	2,675	532	92	2,760	352
1907 ...	92	2,887	595	95	2,985	396
1908 ...	55	1,867	—	54	1,720	314
1909 ...	58	1,969	121	60	1,997	79
Long Cay:						
1906 ...	77	2,115	493	87	1,995	496
1907 ...	85	2,557	458	89	2,476	446
1908 ...	59	1,803	—	63	1,740	290
1909 ...	51	1,674	—	51	1,604	—

78. The Commissioner at Inagua writes as follows:—

"The principal employers of stevedores were the Hamburg-American "Line and the George D. Emery Company. The former paid out $22,378, "and the latter $12,912 during the year. Only one ship of the Earn "Line called for stevedores, whose wages amounted to $662. The total "number of men thus employed—1,969, was 102 more than in 1908, and "918 less than in 1907. The men were employed in discharging and "loading cargo in West Indian and Central American ports. The "average wages, including extra pay for overtime work, amounted to "about 3*s*. 9*d*. per diem. Three meals a day were also supplied to the "men free of charge. Seventy-nine contract labourers in the employ of "the George D. Emery Company returned from Central America and "were paid the balance of their wages, which came to $4,642. The "same company paid out more than $35,000 at this Island in 1908 for "work performed in their lumber camps. In December the C. C. Mengel "and Bro. Company, mahogany merchants, engaged 121 labourers for "their camps in Mexico. Wages $15 a month, with free board and "lodging and extra pay for overtime work. This contract was the first "to be signed under the Emigrant Labourers Protection Act, and con-"tained provisions of great value to the men. Clause 10 secures the "payment of wages entirely in cash, the greater part of which will be "retained by the company and forwarded to Inagua by the ship upon "which the labourers return.

"The amount of wages paid at Inagua during 1909 was £8,301, a "decrease of £6,848 as compared with 1908, and of £11,451 as com-"pared with 1907."

This is interesting as describing the first engagement of labourers under the "Emigrant Labourers Protection Act."

The Mexican Central Railway Company are also in search of labour, but it is not yet known that they will be prepared to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Great numbers of Bahamians continue to be attracted to Florida by the high rate of wages offered there.

Agricultural Prospects.

79. With regard to the prospects of the chief industries of the Colony I have little to add to the remarks I made in my last Report:—

"Sisal appears to be at present in a somewhat parlous condition, "prices having gone down so low that it can in many islands hardly "repay cultivation. For this condition of affairs the duty charged "in the United States of America and the cutting of immature "fibre are no doubt partly responsible, but the main cause is the "growing competition and enormously increasing output of other coun- "tries, and against this factor it is difficult to see what remedy there "can be. The export of badly-cleaned and immature fibre might be "checked if the buyers would co-operate and establish an Exchange on "lines similar to the Sponge Exchange, at which the fibre would be sold "at auction, and if the Legislature would provide the means for Govern- "ment inspection; but at present, I was told by many people in the "Out Islands, the buyer or agent often pays the peasant cultivator no "more for good fibre than for bad, so there is no incentive to careful "cultivation. The introduction of suitable and cheap hand-presses and "still more the establishment of a central twine factory would do a great "deal to foster this industry.

"Pineapple cultivation, too, has gone down. The canning factories "are not taking so much fruit as heretofore. Here again we have to "contend against high American duties and foreign competition, par- "ticularly Hawaii. But there are local causes in the fact that in some "places the soil is played out, and that suitable fertilizers are not "applied. The Board of Agriculture is, however, importing fresh stock "from Cuba, which it is hoped may produce better fruit.

"Sponge has declined very considerably. In this case there is no doubt "that the Colony is suffering from the want of expert knowledge and "advice; but the House of Assembly has as yet failed to provide the "necessary funds."

80. With regard to sisal, the outlook is no more hopeful than it was last year, as, although the production has increased, the market is lower.

With respect to pineapples the outlook is even worse, the export of fresh fruit having almost ceased, and the operations of the canning factories having been still restricted.

Sponge is however improving, the catches having lately been large and the prices satisfactory.

Agriculture generally is in a low state owing to the drought protracted to an unprecedented extent of the past eight months.

It is possible that these unsatisfactory conditions will induce the people to turn their attention to the cultivation of cotton.

81. Trade revival in this Colony is likely to receive an enormous impetus if markets for our produce can be found in Canada, and it is to be hoped that the deliberations of the Royal Commissioners on trade relations between that country and the West Indies will have that result.

82. A hurricane swept a few of the smaller western islands on the 11th October, but no very great damage was done.

83. There are some 40 Friendly Societies in New Providence, and over 80 in the out islands (most of them unregistered), with a total of some 7,000 members.

Their objects are mainly to help the sick and bury the dead, and the Acts under which they are established are badly in want of revision and amendment.

Tourist Traffic.

84. As is well known, the climate, sea-bathing, and fishing, and general life of Nassau attract for the short winter season a large

number of American and Canadian visitors, who undoubtedly bring a good deal of money into the Colony.

85. More might be done in this direction by extensive advertising. The Legislature, recognising this fact, granted £1,000 for the purpose last year, which was judiciously expended, but financial considerations deterred them from voting another sum this year.

86. The Colony pays a subsidy of £5,000 a year for a steamer to carry these visitors from and to Florida.

87. It seems probable that the establishment of a large second-class hotel or boarding-house, which would provide accommodation for many visitors who do not wish to pay the high prices obtaining at the "Hotel Colonial," would be a successful venture.

88. An inevitable result of the tourist season is the general increase of rates paid for provisions, rent, and servants. Very high rents are now paid by many visitors for the use of furnished houses, and it is becoming a matter of increasing difficulty for public officers who come here in the ordinary course of their official career to obtain houses at rentals at all commensurate with their somewhat meagre salaries.

89. The following is a statement (as required by the Secretary of State) of liquor licences issued in the Colony and revenue derived therefrom in 1908 and 1909.

Year.	General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount received.
					£ s d.
1908...	74	24	2	1	1,184 13 4
1909...	75	24	2	Nil	1,215 0 0

General, hotel, and special licences are retail licences.

W. Hart Bennett,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Nassau, Bahamas,
22nd June, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

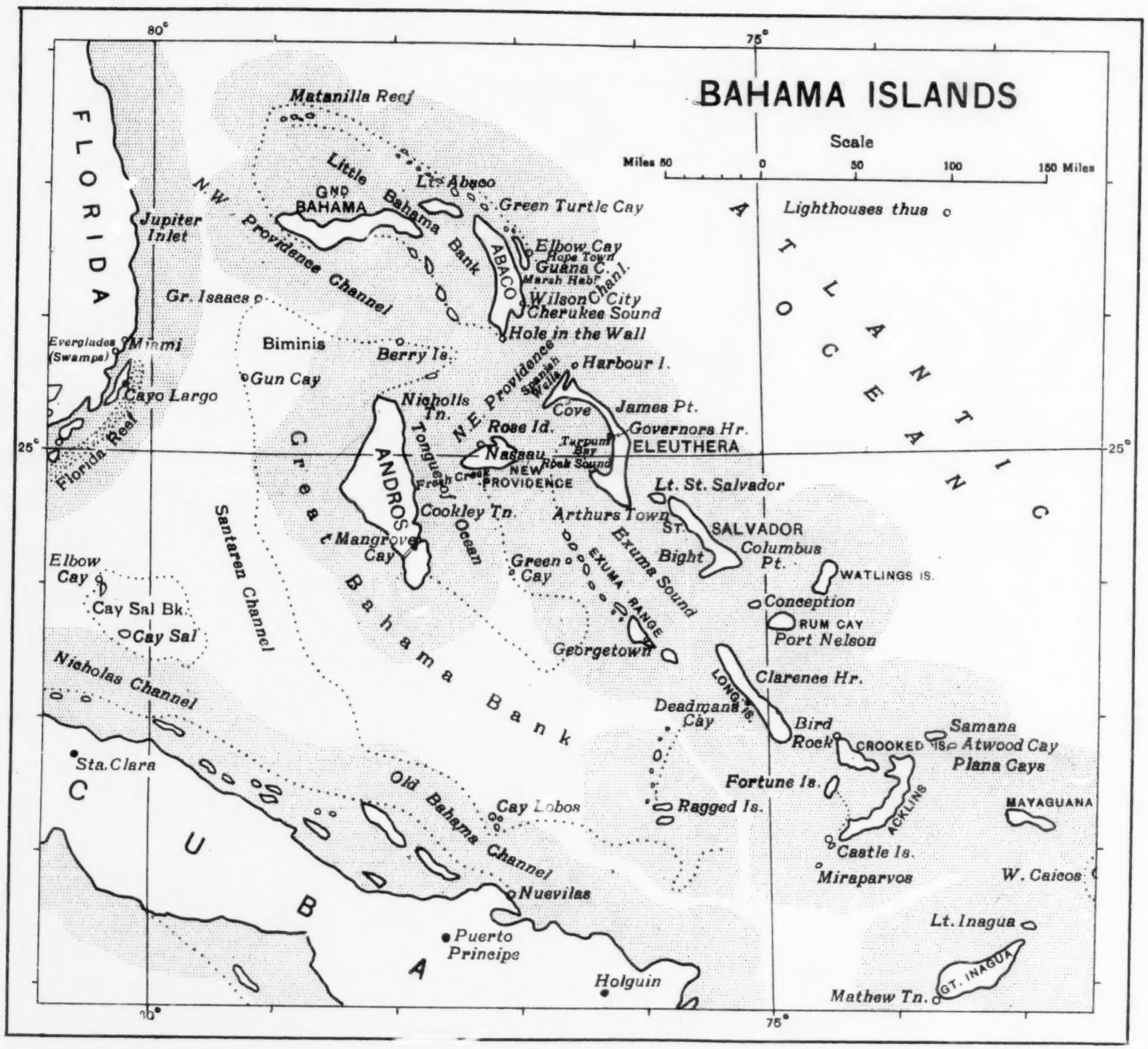
The following recent reports, &c. relating to His Majesty's Colonial possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	1908
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong...	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
65	Uganda...	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1910.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 684.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1910-11.

(For Report for 1909–10, *see* No. 650.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1911.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, S.W.; or
OLIVER AND BOYD, TWEEDDALE COURT, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

PRINTED BY
DARLING AND SON, LTD., BACON STREET, E.
1911.

[Cd. 5467-20.] *Price* 3½*d.*

CONTENTS.

		Page.
I.	Financial	4
II.	Trade, Agriculture, and Industries	8
III.	Legislation	17
IV.	Education	18
V.	Government Institutions	20
VI.	Judicial Statistics	21
VII.	Vital Statistics	22
VIII.	Postal and Telegraph	24
IX.	General Observations	26

Sketch Map.

No. 684

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1909–10, *see* No. 650.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Nassau,
5th July, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1910–11, together with the Colonial Secretary's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.

(20908—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125. 8/11. D & S.

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1911.

(In submitting this Report, I may explain that, although the figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1911 (the financial year of the Colony), the trade and customs statistics are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1910, while all other information is brought up as nearly as possible to the date of the Report.)

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £84,386, as compared with £77,578 in 1909–10, an increase of £6,808, or more by £3,289 than the average of the previous five years.

2. The following are the comparative details :—

Heads of Revenue.	1900–10.	1910–11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	64,023	69,334	5,311	—
2. Port Dues, &c.	364	451	87	—
3. Licences and Internal Revenue...	3,162	3,329	167	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements ...	2,055	2,784	729	—
5. Post and Telegraph	4,495	4,696	201	—
6. Rents	258	245	—	13
7. Widows and Orphans' Pensions	100	99	—	1
8. Miscellaneous	46	191	145	—
9. Interest	222	39	—	183
10. Excise Duty	—	—	—	—
11. Electric Light Fund	2,853	3,218	365	—
Total	77,578	84,386	7,005	197

Nett increase, £6,808.

Receipts from sales of Crown land are not included in the above.

3. The original estimate of revenue was £83,178, which was exceeded by £1,208. It was at one time expected that there would be a considerable deficit, but the larger importation of food stuffs consequent on failure of crops and the increased importations, and removal from bond of spirits during the last quarter of the financial year, in anticipation of additions to the tariff, brought up the revenue to more than the estimated figure.

4. The following statement gives the Customs Revenue for the past ten years :—

Customs Revenue.

Years.	Amount. £
1901–2	65,189
1902–3	59,416
1903–4	59,881
1904–5	59,066
1905–6	64,422
1906–7	65,987
1907–8	75,144
1908–9	65,509
1909–10	64,023
1910–11	69,334
Annual Average	64,795

5. The expenditure was £85,315, as against £92,858 in 1909–10, or a decrease of £7,543, and more by £2,586 than the average of the previous five years.

Service.	1909–10.	1910–11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	6,655	6,526	—	129
2. Pensions	3,833	3,955	122	—
3. House of Assembly	1,447	1,587	140	—
4. Legislative Council	199	292	93	—
5. Governor and Staff	1,245	1,245	—	—
6. Colonial Secretary	1,007	1,009	2	—
7. Receiver-General	2,895	2,831	—	64
8. Judicial	8,194	7,917	—	277
9. Registrar-General	551	515	—	36
10. Police	5,851	6,888	1,037	—
11. Fire	991	542	—	449
12. Civil Engineer	925	883	—	42
13. Audit	480	474	—	6
14. Post Office	8,787	12,526	3,739	—
15. Telegraph and Telephone	1,021	1,049	28	—
16. Education	6,400	6,400	—	—
17. Public Libraries	504	505	1	—
18. Port and Marine	2,151	1,987	—	164
19. Medical...	524	593	69	—
20. Charitable Institutions	7,923	7,092	—	831
21. Prisons...	1,994	2,109	115	—
22. Public Works	13,654	10,915	—	2,739
23. Miscellaneous	6,076	2,904	—	3,172
24. Board of Agriculture	1,500	800	—	700
25. Marine Products Board	300	300	—	—
26. Electric Light Construction	4,890	752	—	4,138
27. Electric Light Fund	2,861	2,719	—	142
Totals	92,858	85,315	5,346	12,889

Nett decrease £7,543.

6. The original estimate of expenditure was £81,801, which was exceeded by £3,514. This excess is accounted for by the

payment during the year of certain mail subsidies which fell due the previous year, by an unestimated payment for electric light construction of £500, by an excess of expenditure on the Electric Light Fund, which, however, was more than balanced by the receipts under that head, and by payments for the construction of out-island residencies the authority for which was given by the House of Assembly by means of a vote of indemnity, which was not included in the general estimates.

7. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue (+) or Expenditure (−).
	£	£	£
1906–7	79,059	71,087	+ 7,971
1907–8	89,694	79,790	+ 9,904
1908–9	81,862	99,655	− 17,793
1909–10	77,578	92,858	− 15,280
1910–11	84,386	85,315	− 929
Average	82,515	85,741	—

8. But it should be noted that in the expenditure of the past two years is included a sum of £16,000 for the installation of electric light in the City of Nassau, a sum which would perhaps have been more equitably raised by loan. So that the average annual expenditure of the past five years, excluding that item, may be put at £82,541, which almost exactly balances the average revenue.

Also the expenditure, of course, includes repayment of and interest on loans, which should be wholly paid off in 15 years' time.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The following Table shows the excess of assets over liabilities for the past five years :—

	£
On 31st March, 1907	35,140
" " " 1908	45,692
" " " 1909	16,207
" " " 1910	6,597
" " " 1911	10,740

Debt.

10. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent., was originally £113,126, and now stands at £55,639.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580.

The existing debt should be wholly liquidated by the year 1926.

Banks.

11. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to

£66,000, was established in 1888, and is now continuing to do business under the Banking Act of 1909. It issues local notes of the values of £1 and four shillings.

The Royal Bank of Canada has also a branch in Nassau.

Currency.

12. The current coins are British silver and copper, and a very little gold. United States gold is current to some extent in the southern islands of the Colony, and a very little American silver. United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted if of $5 and upwards at the same rate as United States gold; if below $5 at the rate of four shillings to the dollar.

ESTIMATES 1911–1912.

13. As regards the current year 1911–12, the original estimate of revenue was put at £76,556, which may be augmented to £83,000 by the operation of the new Tariff Act.

14. The original estimate of expenditure was £87,687. The reduction made by the House of Assembly should result in an expenditure of about £83,000, thus exactly balancing the revenue.

15. But this figure does not include certain special items authorised by the House by Vote of Indemnity, viz.:—

	£
Celebration of His Majesty's Coronation	375
Obtaining Tenders for Dressing Harbour	600
Construction of Out-Island Residencies	1,465

16. As stated in my last annual Report, it became the duty of the new House of Assembly to face the problem of raising additional revenue.

17. The Government proposed increased duties on spirits and tobacco, and certain other Customs charges, which it is estimated would yield some £9,000. The House dealt with the matter by passing an amended Tariff Act increasing the *ad valorem* duties from 20 to 25 per cent., removing certain goods from the free to the dutiable list, adding a 10 per cent. surtax on spirits, wines, &c., and discontinuing the deduction of 10 per cent. on the gauge of wines and spirits imported in wood. At the same time the House cut down the Public Works appropriations proposed by the Government by a very considerable amount. Parsimony of expenditure on this service is inexpedient from the point of view both of the progress of the Colony and the provision of employment, nor can it be considered satisfactory that it should be found necessary to impose so high an *ad valorem* Customs duty as 25 per cent. in order to provide for the current expenditure of the Colony.

18. The Tariff Acts expire next year, when the whole matter must again come up for revision.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

19. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1910, were valued at £329,014 as against £343,489 (including £731 specie) in 1909.

The following table shows whence they came, but inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in this Colony, these figures are not wholly to be relied upon. There is no direct communication with the United Kingdom, and consequently many goods really imported from that country are classified as if imported from the United States, where they are transhipped. It is only when merchants specially enter their goods as having been imported from the United Kingdom that they are so classified :—

Country.	Value, 1909.	Value, 1910.
	£	£
United States of America ...	229,227*	220,621
United Kingdom	92,564	81,266
Canada	9,766	12,728
British West Indies	5,202	6,250
Foreign countries other than America	6,730	8,149
Total	£343,489	£329,014

20. The values of articles imported as compared with the previous year were as follows :—

Articles.	Value. 1909.	Value, 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic Liquors :—				
Alcohol	32	8	—	24
Ale, Cider, Porter	2,516	2,181	—	335
Brandy	159	95	—	64
Gin	3,201	3,550	349	—
Rum	3,615	2,359	—	1,256
Whisky	1,998	2,216	218	—
Wines	2,041	1,765	—	276
Automobiles	384	108	—	276
Bicycles	387	373	—	14
Butter	8,538	7,605	—	933
Cattle	2,461	2,148	—	313
Cement	909	797	—	112
Coffee	2,304	2,603	299	—
Corn, Cornmeal and Hominy	12,746	16,796	4,050	—
Coal	2,912	2,117	—	795
Electrical Appliances	2,580	2,013	—	567
Fertilizers	998	518	—	480
Flour	41,439	54,911	13,472	—
Gasolene	577	876	299	—
Hay, Oats and Bran	6,637	6,784	147	—

* Include specie £731.

Articles.	Value, 1909.	Value, 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Horses, Mules and Donkeys	772	691	—	81
Ice	2,047	2,016	—	31
Lard...	7,267	9,346	2,079	—
Lumber Shingles, Laths, Crate Ends, &c.	9,032	6,623	—	2,409
Machinery	8,183	5,820	—	2,363
Meat, Fresh	5,275	3,189	—	2,086
Meat, Salt	12,876	13,872	996	—
Oil, Kerosene	4,361	3,366	—	995
Potatoes and Onons	1,682	1,870	188	—
Railroad Stock	3,506	—	—	3,506
Rice	12,082	13,119	1,037	—
Rope and Canvas	5,334	5,135	—	199
Soap...	2,538	2,723	185	—
Sugar	13,162	14,024	862	—
Tea	883	845	—	38
Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes	7,801	7,687	—	114
Unenumerated :—				
Earthenware, Glassware, and Furniture	39,997	29,876	—	10,121
Hardware and Tinware	11,034	8,213	—	2,821
Preserved Meat and Fish	24,893	24,522	—	371
Textile Fabrics	54,287	47,102	—	7,185
All other Articles	19,312	19,152	—	160
Totals	342,758	329,014	24,181	38,825
Specie	731	—	—	731
Grand Totals	343,489	329,014	24,181	39,556

21. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade, the imports were as follows :—

Headings.	American.	England.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	139,077	38,304	21,350	198,731
2. Raw Materials	7,933	—	2,255	10,188
3. Manufactured Materials—				
Textile	19,543	31,109	1,630	52,282
Metal	18,291	3,296	—	21,587
Other	35,777	8,557	1,892	46,226
4. Coin	—	—	—	—
Total	220,621	81,266	27,127	329,014

The import figures call for no remarks.

Exports.

22. The exports were valued at £193,803 (including specie £3,121), as against £171,442 (including £2,750 specie) in 1909. £188,286 represented the produce of the Colony, as against £165,116 in the previous year.

23. The following Table gives the quantities and values of the articles of Colonial produce exported :—

Articles.	1909.		1910.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Cotton ... ... Lbs.	11,931	411	6,472	206
Fruit—				
Cocoanuts ... ... No.	8,860	31	500	1
Grape fruit ... ... „	365,233	1,404	244,250	846
Oranges... ... ... „	753,180	795	42,130	68
Pineapple, fresh ... Doz.	52,351	3,629	8,000	500
„ preserved ... Cases	46,639	8,999	43,041	9,219
Lumber, &c.—				
Bark ... ... Lbs.	82,724	1,379	147,138	2,236
Hardwood ... ... Tons	—	1,122	385	909
Lumber... ... ... Feet	83,008	249	3,957,148	11,871
Salt ... ... Bshls.	54,980	171	11,150	96
Shells, conch ... ... No	606,013	2,086	499,357	1,794
„ turtle ... ... Lbs.	5,471	6,157	4,528	4,661
Sisal ... ... „	5,846,447	48,805	6,296,687	42,057
Sponge ... ... „	1,372,316	87,657	1,465,960	110,740
Other articles ... ... —	—	2,221	—	3,082
Total values	—	165,116	—	188,286

24. For reasons which will be presently given it will be seen that the exports of oranges and pineapples have decreased considerably.

The large increase in lumber is due to the operations of the American Company at Abaco, the export having been entirely to Cuba.

Although the export of sisal or Bahamas hemp still increases in amount the value continues to decrease.

The increased export of sponge is satisfactory.

25. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade, the exports were :—

Heading.	Value. £	£
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	—	12,599
2. Raw materials—		
Textile	155,239	
Other	20,405	
		175,644
3. Manufactured materials—		
Textile	204	
Metal	554	
Other	1,681	
		2,439
4. Coin	—	3,121
Total		£198,803

26. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries :—

Country.	Value, 1909.	Value, 1910.
	£	£
United States of America ...	94,641	98,076
United Kingdom	22,480	24,064
Canada	1,569	1,636
British West Indies	125	94
Foreign countries other than America	46,301	64,416
Total	£165,116	£188,286

27. These figures are to a certain extent misleading, inasmuch as certain exports to Canada, and probably to other places, appear as exports to America, for the reason that they were shipped *via* New York.

The Elder-Dempster steamers do not yet touch at Nassau on their way to Canada.

28. A comparative return of the values of imports and exports for the past five years is subjoined :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1906	329,115	221,925	551,040
1907	372,937	238,232	611,169
1908	369,490	183,239	552,729
1909	343,489	171,442	514,931
1910	329,014	193,803	522,817
Average of 5 years...	348,809	201,728	550,537

MANUFACTURES.

29. *Pineapples, Canning factories.*—The export of tinned pineapples in 1910 was 43,041 cases valued at £9,219, as against 46,639 cases valued at £8,999 in 1909, 59,839 cases valued at £10,997 in 1908, and 68,349 cases valued at £13,579 in 1907.

The trade is steadily going down, owing to poor stock, Hawaian competition, and American duties. There is one factory in Nassau and one at Governor's Harbour.

30. *Sisal factories.*—There were six sisal factories in New Providence. The J. S. Johnson Company have three factories with three cleaning machines.

The Bahamas Fibre and Produce Company have three factories and about 1,400 acres. Two Tod and one Villamor machines were in use.

At Little Abaco the Sisal Fibre Company has two cleaning machines, about 5,000 acres are planted, and 13 miles of railroad laid. A disastrous fire burnt out 3,000 acres of this farm in 1909, and operations have been suspended for two years.

At Whale Cay, Berry Islands, there is one factory with one Todd cleaning machine, and about 250 acres.

31. *Lumber mills.*—The American Lumber Company at Abaco operated its mills with great vigour. Nearly 9,000,000 feet were sawn, and about 4,000,000 feet exported wholly to Cuba. Some 500 hands are employed. Electric light has been installed, also an ice plant.

Agriculture, Fruit Culture, &c.

32. *Sisal.*—As stated in my last report:—

"The most important industry of the peasant cultivator is the "raising of sisal fibre. Over 20,000 acres are estimated to be "under cultivation, but the price is very low, and the rapid "extension of the industry in other countries is likely to have its "effect on this colony."

"Complaints of immature and badly cleaned fibre continue. "This is a matter which can only be remedied by legislation or by "combination among local buyers to give a higher price for the "mature and well-cleaned product."

"There is yet to be invented a good and cheap hand-cleaning "machine and, if our fibre is to hold its own, means must be "found for washing it in fresh instead of salt water."

Exports in 1909, 5,846,447 lbs., value £48,805.
„ 1910, 6,290,686 lbs., „ £42,057.

The export is entirely to the United States.

33. *Pineapples.*—There was a great shortage in the crop—due to drought—and, owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, many fields died out entirely.

There is hardly any export of the fresh fruit (8,000 dozen only in 1910), and for the reasons given in paragraph 29, the export of the preserved variety is steadily going down.

34. *Grape fruit and oranges.*—There ought to be a very large export to Canada, but last year there was none, owing to the want of marketing facilities and means of transport.

The export of grape fruit in 1910 was only 244,000 (of which nearly all went to America) value £846, as against 365,000 in 1909.

Of oranges, the export was insignificant, amounting only to 42,000 value £68. In 1907 the export was over a million and a half, value £3,000, of which two-thirds went to Canada. The Canadian Company then existing has ceased to buy, and latterly turned its attention to tomatoes.

35. *Cotton.*—There has been some increase in the interest manifested in Sea Island cotton, but climatic conditions were unfavourable. The Board of Agriculture (which, however, comes to an end this year) has been considering a scheme for providing gins and assisting to market the produce. It is to be hoped that, although the Board has ceased to exist, this important industry will be fostered.

36. *Cocoanuts.*—The export has dwindled to nothing, but suitable land exists in plenty and only market and communications are needed.

37. *Board of Agriculture.*—The House of Assembly have unanimously decided not to renew the Act under which this Board was constituted. The Board has been in existence six years and has expended some £5,000 of public money, and it appears to have been considered that the results accomplished did not justify a continuance of the experiment at such a cost.

Mines.

38. None. Limestone for building is found in most of the larger islands, valued at the quarry at about 10*d.* per cubic foot.

Fisheries.

Sponge.

39. The past year has been better than the previous one, the sales on the Exchange having reached £79,102, as against £70,000, and the total exports £110,740, as against £87,657.

Certain sponge areas remain closed, and restrictions are imposed as to the size of wool and velvet sponge which may be gathered.

40. The subjoined extract from the report of the Marine Products Board describes an experiment now being tried as to the propagation of sponge :—

"The Board during the past year has buoyed a small space of "water off the Port of Governor's Harbour for the purpose of "carrying out an experiment with the view of increasing the "numbers of the valuable sponge (known to the trade as current "wool) which grows on the southern coast of Eleuthera.

"The Board from time to time has heard of curious substances "on which these sponges have adhered to and grown. Owing to "the depth of the mud in that locality, the sponge seeds that are "thrown off from the mother sponge can find nothing to adhere to "but the conchs which live in those waters; these, however, are "insufficient in number to save the millions of seeds that are "produced, and in consequence the waste of sponge life must be "very great.

"The Board has strewn the enclosure with wattles and other "material to which it is hoped the seed may cling and live.

"Should this experiment prove successful, it is the intention of "the Board to carry on this work on a large scale, not only on the "Eleuthera coast, but on other well-known sponging grounds where "such conditions obtain.

"The Board is of opinion that this method will prove more "practical and economical than that of propagating sponges by "cuttings."

41. The life of the Board, which normally came to an end this year, has been prolonged by the Legislature for another five years, at an annual cost of £300, but the House of Assembly continue to turn a deaf ear to the oft-repeated representations in favour of the engagement of a biological expert, who, after study of the local conditions, would be able to advise as to improved methods of propagation and gathering of sponge, the opening and closing of sponge areas, &c.

42. Comparative returns of export of sponge, sisal, pineapples (fresh and preserved), grape-fruit, oranges, and cocoanuts for the past five years:—

Comparative Return of Sponge Exported, 1906–1910.

Country to which exported.	1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.		1910.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
United Kingdom	175,938	10,258	170,120	15,729	486,912	21,937	233,247	14,450	449,320	17,112
Canada	—	—	10,895	1,638	50	15	2,076	420	2,295	429
United States of America	783,386	45,296	910,603	50,415	865,733	47,799	667,841	27,237	524,639	42,079
France	140,253	21,161	122,358	20,180	72,730	9,314	87,250	13,245	110,448	17,045
Holland	111,074	12,372	111,697	13,140	8,896	1,632	124,589	13,238	142,621	15,972
Germany	307,173	26,206	320,968	28,198	147,161	12,783	242,919	18,507	236,637	18,100
Russia	1,113	94	—	—	524	57	14,394	560	—	—
Italy	9,863	140	14,036	399	19,712	701	—	—	—	—
Totals	1,528,800	115,527	1,660,677	129,699	1,601,718	94,238	1,372,316	87,657	1,465,960	110,740

Comparative Return of Grape-fruit Exported, 1906–1910.

	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
United Kingdom	7,500	31	938	4	—	—	10,880	42	12,000	56
Canada	6,988	58	293,800	1,970	—	—	42,000	97	—	—
United States	415,646	1,748	413,237	1,696	276,576	1,264	312,353	1,265	232,250	790
Totals	430,134	1,837	707,975	3,670	276,576	1,264	365,233	1,404	244,250	846

Comparative Return of Oranges Exported, 1906–1910.

	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
United Kingdom	—	—	3,000	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	82,000	148	1,089,400	2,369	—	—	341,560	449	—	—
United States	485,269	635	507,460	635	105,059	93	396,620	346	42,130	68
Totals	567,269	783	1,599,860	3,007	105,059	93	738,180	795	42,130	68

Comparative Return of Cocoanuts Exported, 1906–1910.

United States	297,850	710	316,250	955	6,860	15	8,860	31	500	1
Total	297,850	710	316,250	955	6,860	15	8,860	31	500	1

Comparative Return of Sisal Exported, 1906–1910.

	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
United Kingdom	—	—	26,598	308	—	—	—	—	—	—
United States	3,722,733	38,702	4,279,484	46,361	5,281,449	42,627	5,846,447	48,805	6,296,686	42,057
Canada	144,301	1,438	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3,867,034	40,140	4,306,082	46,669	5,281,449	42,627	5,846,447	48,805	6,296,986	42,057

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Fresh) Exported, 1906–1910.

Country to which exported.	1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.		1910.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Dozen.	£	Dozen.	£	Dozen.	£	Dozen.	£	Dozen.	£
United Kingdom	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242	118,526	11,856	52,351	3,629	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United States	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,000	500
Totals	146,487	11,524	67,012	4,242	118,526	11,856	52,351	3,629	8,000	500

Comparative Return of Pineapples (Preserved) Exported, 1906–1910.

	No. of cases.	£	No. of cases.	£	No. of cases.	£	No. of cases.	£	No. of cases.	£
United States	116,010	18,736	61,984	12,532	59,839	10,997	45,964	8,888	42,161	9,076
Canada	1,186	354	6,365	1,047	—	—	675	111	880	143
Totals	117,196	19,090	68,349	13,579	59,839	10,997	46,639	8,999	43,041	9,219

Land Grants.

43. 156 acres of Crown land were granted, leaving an approximate total of 364,904 acres granted and 2,435,255 ungranted.

Squatting is common, and many holdings remain unsurveyed for want of staff.

Shipping.

44. The number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared 1910, distinguishing nationalities, are given in the following return, which calls for no comment :—

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	160	11,925	153	11,655	64	103,575	64	103,569
American	12	4,410	11	4,054	96	227,022	96	227,013
Norwegian	2	648	2	648	—	—	—	—
Haytian	10	162	10	162	—	—	—	—
St. Domingan ...	1	11	1	11	—	—	—	—
German	—	—	—	—	205	508,899	206	512,164
Cuban	—	—	—	—	1	2,206	1	3,206
Totals ...	185	17,156	177	16,530	366	842,702	367	845,952
Totals, 1909 ...	176	13,879	168	14,346	300	639,003	298	637,432

45. The number of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was—

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1906	13	229
1907	11	190
1908	8	491*
1909	9	133
1910	9	336

46. A schooner-rigged motor vessel named the "Frances E" was also built in Nassau at a cost of some £2,000. She is 73 tons and has 54 h.p. engines, and was built for the passenger service between Nassau and Miami (Florida).

III.—LEGISLATION.

47. A general election was held last year. In six out of the 15 districts into which the colony is divided there was no contest, nine

* One of these is a schooner of 320 tons.

members being returned without opposition. In the remaining nine districts, returning 20 members, 4,658 electors out of a total of 10,628 on the register came to the poll.

Five members of the last House did not seek re-election, and four others were defeated at the polls.

48. Although the House of Assembly has been in session for some five months, the legislative output has been somewhat meagre.

49. The most important Act of the session was the amended Tariff Act already referred to in paragraph 17.

50. Among other Bills which may be expected to become laws by the end of the session are Bills relating to the appointment of Commissions of Enquiry, for the regulation of public markets, to consolidate and amend the law relating to prisons, to amend the Interpretation Acts, and to continue and amend the Stamp Acts.

51. The House again declined to pass a Bill providing machinery for the raising of public loans, and they again refused to consider an amendment of the Pension Law to enable service in other colonies to count towards the minimum period of ten years' service required for eligibility for a pension.

52. A scheme prepared by the Government at the request of the House for abolishing one of the two Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates, and making certain consequent re-arrangements of offices has not found favour.

53. The Board of Agriculture Act has been allowed to lapse, as also the Act authorising the engagement of an Out-Island Engineer, thereby effecting a saving of £1,300 a year.

IV.—EDUCATION.

54. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools :—

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1908 ...	46	7,055	5,917	4,425	14	1,275	1,136	703	60	8,320	7,053	5,128
1909 ...	45	7,091	6,067	4,786	16	1,330	1,285	834	61	8,421	7,352	5,620
1910 ...	46	7,566	6,407	5,113	18	1,550	1,420	906	64	9,116	7,827	6,019

55. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education was as follows :—

—	1908.	1909.	1910.
Principal teachers	46	45	47
Assistant teachers	8	10	13
Pupil teachers	3	3	7
Monitors	124	138	153
Sewing teachers	11	13	11
Industrial teacher	—	1	1
Students in training	4	5	4
Employed in aided schools	15	17	23
Total	211	232	259

56. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

—	1908.			1909.			1910.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board schools ...	3,097	2,820	5,917	3,161	2,906	4,786	3,400	3,007	6,407
Aided private schools	611	525	1,136	677	610	1,285	736	684	1,420
Church of England ...	740	855	1,595	786	901	1,657	853	995	1,848
Roman Catholic ...	212	285	497	240	326	566	203	299	502
Private schools ...	146	207	353	148	199	347	110	180	290
Wesleyan schools ...	20	22	42	41	43	84	16	37	53
Total	4,826	4,717	9,540	5,143	5,062	10,205	5,318	5,202	10,520

57. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board there were 33 maintained by the Church of England, six of which were in New Providence. Average roll 1,848, and average attendance 930.

There were also four Roman Catholic schools, total roll 502, and 14 private schools, roll 290.

58. By an Act passed in 1908, the annual vote to the Board of Education was raised to £6,000 and the school age from 13 to 14 years.

59. There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education.

60. Private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instructions as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College	30	19	49
Nassau Grammar School	17	—	17
St. Francis Xavier's Academy	16	26	42
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera)	18	12	30
Wilson City (Abaco)...	8	7	15
Total	89	64	153

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

61. The Bahamas General Hospital, formerly known as the New Providence Asylum, was established in 1909 as a poor-house and hospital for the poor and infirm of the island. Since then the institution has grown steadily, and its functions have been extended in many directions. In 1845 it was placed under a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and now comprises the hospital proper, the infirmary, dispensary, the lunatic asylum, and the leper compound.

The number of inmates on 1st January, 1910, was :—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	26	18	44
Victoria Infirmary	18	11	29
Lunatic Asylum	20	22	42
Leper Asylum	4	2	6
Total	68	53	121

597 patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 718, of whom 234 were discharged recovered, 99 relieved, 30 discharged not improved, and 124 died. Every year many cases are received in a hopeless—often moribund—condition.

At the close of the year 128 remained, distributed as follows :—

—	Males.	Females	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	29	15	44
Victoria Infirmary	21	13	34
Lunatic Asylum	20	22	42
Leper Asylum...	6	2	8
Total	76	52	128

62. The Assistant Surgeon visited 1,082 cases at their homes on certificate from the Relieving Officer.

63. The House of Assembly in 1910 cut down the vote for this institution from £6,000 to £5,000, but this amount was exceeded. The amount provided this year is £5,500.

64. It is probable that the accommodation for lepers will in the near future have to be enlarged and improved, in view of the compulsory segregation of lepers, which is under consideration.

65. The institution also maintains a Cottage Hospital at Inagua, the cost of which, exclusive of the salary of the Public Physician and of outdoor relief, was £275.

SAVINGS BANK.

66. The number of depositors in the Post-Office Saving Bank on the 30th June, 1910 (the end of the Saving Bank year), was 2,186; on 30th June, 1909, 2,179.

The deposits and withdrawals were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1908	4,524	13,264	3,150	12,104
1909	3,811	9,778	3,098	13,463
1910	2,946	6,878	2,632	8,921

This is the second time that the withdrawals have exceeded the deposits. This does not necessarily imply a decrease of thrift on the part of the people, but may be ascribed to the fact that the local banks now offer better terms to depositors than does the Government.

The balance due to depositors on 30th June, 1910, was £27,248, as against £28,642 in 1909.

67. During the year 1910 branches of the bank were established in the Out-Islands, having previously been in operation in only three or four of them. But the transactions so far have been small, as the people seem to prefer dealing direct with the office at Nassau.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

68. The strength of the Force on 1st January, 1911, was 81.

69. Seven men were discharged and 12 enlisted during the year. The enlisted men were obtained locally instead of from Barbados, there not being the usual difficulty of getting them.

70. The general effect of the Act of 1909 is that in course of time there will be only one Force under one Act, instead of two Forces under two different Acts as heretofore. All the men in the new Force are drilled and instructed on one system, and their duties are the same. The rates of pay and pension will be the same for all. Previously this was not so, some being entitled to pensions and others not.

71. Although, from restricted accommodation, the whole Force will not be able to live in barracks, yet they will all be under the same discipline and all be liable to do so.

72. The conduct of the Force has been good. The bringing into operation of the Police Act, 1909, has materially improved the position of the men, and has had a good effect on their morals.

73. The health of the Force has been good. Three men were discharged as physically unfit, but in two of these cases sufficient care had not been taken in their medical examination at Barbados.

Prisons.

74. The number of persons committed to the Nassau Prison was 189 as against 214 in 1909. Of these 120 were men, 53 women and 16 juveniles. The daily average number in prison was 54·31 as against 69·2 in 1909.

75. 169 punishments were inflicted, which was less than during the previous year, but some of the offences were of a more serious nature, and in two cases flogging was inflicted.

76. Tailoring, carpentering, bread making and the manufacture of concrete poles are carried on in the prison.

77. The bread ration has been reduced from 24 to 18 ozs. without ill effects.

78. The sanitary condition and health of the prison was very good.

Criminal Statistics.

79. Comparative Table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years :—

—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
The number of offences reported to the police ; the number of persons brought before the magistrates.	2,755	2,562	2,725	2,799
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. Offences against property with violence to the person.	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against property ...	106	182	117	156
3. Other offences against the person ...	249	250	241	222
4. Other offences	1,582	1,444	1,475	1,701
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
1. Homicide	—	—	1	1
2. Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide.	2	—	—	—
3. Other offences against property ...	9	20	11	17
4. Other offences against the person ...	9	2	2	4
5. Other offences	5	3	6	3
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the Inferior Courts	520	426	493	438
2. In the Superior Courts	14	8	6	5

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

80. The population ascertained by the census of 1901 was 52,735.

81. The Census of 2nd April, 1911, gave a total of 55,872 souls, and a comparative table is appended. (These figures are subject to revision).

District.	1901.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
Abaco	3,314	4,460	1,146	—	
Andros	6,747	7,999	1,252	—	Includes Berry Islands, and Cay Sal.
Biminis	345	476	—	69	
Eleuthera	8,733	6,530	—	2,203	
Exuma	3,086	3,465	379	—	
Grand Bahama ...	1,780	1,824	44	—	
Harbour Island ...	1,766	1,586	—	180	Includes Spanish Wells.
Inagua	1,788	1,701	—	87	Includes Mayaguana.
Long Cay	3,661	3,650	—	11	Includes Acklins and Crooked Island.
Long Island ...	3,562	4,155	593	—	
New Providence ...	12,534	13,554	1,020	—	
Ragged Island ...	365	353	—	12	
Rum Cay	529	430	—	99	
San Salvador ...	4,658	5,072	414	—	
Watlings	667	617	—	50	
Totals ...	53,735	55,872	4,848	2,711	

Net increase, 2,137.

82. Taking into account only the excess of births over deaths, the population on 31st December, 1910, would have been 61,949, showing that during the decade the Colony has suffered by emigration a loss of some 6,000 persons.

83. Births in 1910, 2,129.
Deaths „ 1,457.
Birth rate, 3·4 per cent.
Death rate, 2·3 per cent.

No death certificates are required in this Colony, but a Bill dealing with this matter is now before the Legislature.

84. I append the report of the Acting Medical Inspector :—

"The general health of the Colony during the past year has been on the "whole good.

"During the autumn and winter months influenza has existed in an "epidemic form in New Providence, and on some of the outer islands its "propagation has probably been greatly facilitated by means of the dust con- "sequent on the prolonged drought. While many of the cases have been of "a severe nature, comparatively few deaths have occurred.

"A few cases of typhoid have occurred in the island during the year, and there "were two deaths from the same.

"During the early part of the year a case of smallpox was landed in the "Colony, from Mexico, but prompt measures of isolation and disinfection "prevented the occurrence of secondary cases.

"A few cases of typhus fever were introduced into Ragged Island, but the "disease did not spread.

"The street drainage of the City is still in an unsatisfactory condition, but "such measures as the finances of the Colony justified have been carried out "for its improvement.

"The rainfall (25·71 ins.) was unusually low, but the supply of spring water has been plentiful and good.

"622 vaccinations were successfully performed in New Providence, and "1,637 on the out-island settlements.

"Experiments with various vaccine lymphs have been carried out, but that "from Dr. Renner's establishment has proved to be the best as heretofore."

Meteorological Statistics.

85. The following are the meteorological data for the past six years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
								inches.
1905	77·6	80·2	78·9	83·7	7[illegible]·9	92·5	51·5	54·69
1906	76·7	79·2	77·9	81·8	70·9	91	55	59·60
1907	77·9	79·7	78·8	82·4	71·5	91·5	62	39·39
1908	77·6	79·8	78·6	82·6	71·7	93	57	69·05°
1909	76·5	79·5	78·0	81·5	71·7	90	54·5	43·48
1910	76·4	79·4	77·0	80·9	71·3	90·5	58·5	25·71
Average for six years.	77·1	79·6	78·2	82·1	71·5	91·4	56·4	48·65

° Hurricane year.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

86. The postal revenue for 1910–11 was £3,782, compared with £3,433 the previous year. The expenditure was £523, as against £491, plus the annual subsidies of £7,500 a year for foreign mails and £2,403 for Interinsular mails.

87. Sales of stamps realised £2,357, as against £2,016 in 1909–10. The revenue from the sale of stamps has not yet recovered the loss sustained by the reduction to 1*d.* per oz. in the rate of postage to United States, so far unreciprocated.

Up to 31st March, 1909, the rate was 2½*d.* per oz., and 236,733 stamps, of the value of ½*d.* and 2½*d.*, aggregating £1,445, were sold. During the year 1910 276,193 of like values aggregated but £1,122.

88. The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 763,373, or 50,809 more than in the previous year.

89. The following table compares the quantities of postal matter received and despatched in the two years :—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1909–10.	1910–11.	Increase.	Decrease.	1909–10.	1910–11.	Increase.	Decrease.
Foreign—								
Letters and postcards	251,154	268,183	17,029	—	193,467	198,095	4,628	—
Newspapers and books	99,998	100,631	638	—	14,175	13,838	—	337
Interinsular—								
Letters and postcards	54,724	66,701	11,977	—	69,270	82,176	12,906	—
Newspapers and books	927	1,274	347	—	28,849	32,470	3,621	—
Totals	406,803	436,794	29,991	—	305,761	326,579	21,155	337

90. The parcel post figures were as follows :—

	Number.	Value. £
From United Kingdom ...	2,625	4,118
United States ...	4,260	3,002
Canada	86	156
To United Kingdom ...	620	980
United States	576	151
Canada	2	—
Total		£8,407

In 1909–10 the figures were :—

	Number.	Value. £
Parcels from United Kingdom ...	2,593	4,075
United States ...	3,793	2,617

91. Money orders were issued and paid as follows :—

Countries.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
Canada	39	89	68	151
United Kingdom	708	1,501	100	503
United States	1,560	4,295	572	1,400
Total	2,307	5,885	740	2,054

The totals in 1909-10 were ;—

Issues 2,276, value £5,484 ; paid 590, value £1,736.

92. 1,870 British postal orders, value £705, were issued and 358, value £209, drawn.

93. An exchange of money orders between Nassau and Inagua has been introduced, and 27 orders, value £75, were issued at the latter place.

94. A Money Order Convention has also been entered into with Mexico.

Telegraph.

95. The revenue of the Telegraph Department in 1910 was £1,332 and the expenditure £607.

3,761 messages passed over the cable between Nassau and Jupiter (Florida) of which 294 were to and from Great Britain. The total number in the previous year was 3,796.

Telephones.

96. 253 telephone stations are now working in Nassau and suburbs. The revenue for the year was £991 and the expenditure, including interest on loan, £906. A large number of the original wooden poles, which were badly decayed, have been replaced by concrete poles, and the cost of these replacements has been met from Revenue.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Emigration.

97. Emigration to Florida, where high wages are obtainable, has increased considerably. Some 2,000 persons left and 1,500 returned during the year 1910, and during the five months—1st January to 31st May, 1911—1,532 left and 975 returned : latterly the wives and families have taken to joining their husbands in Florida.

The exodus from the Colony during the past ten years has amounted to some 6,000 persons, as shown by the figures under the head of " Vital Statistics."

98. Bahamian labourers are employed under contract by the National Railways Company of Mexico and the Mengel Lumber Company in Yucatan—also as stevedores. The statistics of this traffic are given in the following Table :—

—	Number of steam vessels outwards bound.	Number of labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiration of engagement.	
		To work on board ships (Stevedores).	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c.		From work on board ships (Stevedores).	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c.
Inagua:						
1906 ...	93	2,675	532	92	2,760	352
1907 ...	92	2,887	595	95	2,985	396
1808 ...	55	1,867	—	54	1,720	314
1909 ...	58	1,969	121	60	1,997	79
1910 ...	80	2,740	195	75	2,572	—
Long Cay:						
1906 ...	77	2,115	493	87	1,995	496
1907 ...	85	2,557	458	89	2,476	446
1908 ...	59	1,803	—	63	1,740	290
1909 ...	51	1,674	—	51	1,604	—
1910 ...	42	1,250	—	42	1,113	—

99. The Commissioner of Inagua writes as follows:—"The "Hamburg-American Line and the George D. Emery Company "were the sole employers of stevedore labour during 1910. The "number of engagements exceeded those of 1909 by 771. The "average length of voyages was about 16 days. Total wages "amounted to $43,294, being $7,904 more than in 1909. The men "were employed as usual in discharging and loading cargoes in "West Indian and Central American Ports. The average earnings "per man amounted to nearly four shillings a day including extra "pay for overtime work. Meals were supplied by the Companies "free of charge. The National Railways of Mexico engaged 195 "labourers during the year. Wages $16 a month (gold) with free "board and lodging and extra pay for overtime work. The men "are employed in loading and unloading cars and steamers, "repairing tracks, and work of a similar nature. They are only "allowed to draw a portion of their wages while at work, not "exceeding $5 a month. The balance will be held by the Company "until the expiration of the contract (one year) when it is to be "forwarded to Inagua for payment. The Company also remits to "the Commissioner a certain amount monthly for the support of "the men's families if requested to do so."

100. The Commissioner of Long Cay writes as follows:— "38 Hamburg American Line and 4 United Fruit Company's boats "called for stevedore labourers at 50 cts. a day and 10 cts. per hour "overtime. Men are employed handling cargo on board and on "wharves at ports of call. The voyage is for 16 days and the "average earnings about £3 per voyage. In May two of H. A. "Line ships changed port of call to Inagua, leaving but two, but "there is a promise of more ships for the year 1911."

Relations with Canada.

101. Unfortunately the Royal Commissioners on Trade Relations between Canada and the West Indies were unable to visit the Bahamas, nor does the detailed information which was supplied by this Government find a place in the appendices to their report. It is much to be regretted that this Colony is dismissed with only a brief reference in the Royal Commissioners' report.

102. Recently a movement has developed in favour of the incorporation of the Bahamas in the Dominion of Canada. During the last season two well-known unofficial Canadian gentlemen organised public meetings in Nassau, and succeeded by their eloquence and enthusiasm in carrying the meetings with them, and ultimately in inducing the House of Assembly to pass by a large majority a vote desiring the appointment of Bahamian and Canadian Commissions to conjointly discuss the question. The subject is under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

103. A stimulus to trade with Canada will no doubt result from the anticipated visit to Nassau, as part of a tour to the West Indies, of a large number of Canadian business men next winter.

Commissions of Enquiry.

104. Three Commissions which were appointed by the Governor last year under the "Commissions of Enquiry Act" have reported, and their reports will, it is hoped, be considered by the Legislature next autumn.

105. The report on the Customs Department contains many important and far-reaching recommendations which, if carried out, will undoubtedly result in an increase of the Customs revenue, and a vast improvement in organisation and methods.

106. The Commissioners on Friendly Societies make various proposals as to legislation, and are on the whole favourable to the encouragement of the organisations as at present existing.

107. The third report, that on the Board of Public Works for New Providence, makes certain not very important suggestions as to the constitution and conduct of that body.

Hurricanes.

108. The islands were free, except in a very minor degree, from hurricanes, and the disastrous Key West hurricane of October, 1910, passed them by with slight damage to one or two outlying islands.

Tourist Season.

109. The tourist season was somewhat disappointing, there having been fewer winter visitors than usual at the American hotel.

The boarding houses have, however, done well, and the establishment of a good but small minor hotel (the "Hotel Alpha") is to be noted.

110. One of the results of the movement for union with Canada will next year, no doubt, be the influx of many more Canadians than hitherto, so that, whatever may be the outcome of the agitation,

it will at least have the effect (as indeed its promoters urged) of giving the Colony a free advertisement and of drawing the attention of the Canadian public to the great advantages possessed by Nassau as a salubrious winter resort.

Retrospect.

111. The failure of the summer and winter crops, owing to drought (only 26 inches of rain fell during the year as against an average of 50), the reduced appropriations on Public Works, the continued low price of sisal, the incentive to emigration afforded by the high wages paid in Florida, combined to produce a somewhat "lean year" and a stagnant condition of trade. Sponge, however, was plentiful and good prices maintained, and the applications for relief on account of distress were much fewer than had been anticipated.

Nevertheless, as will be seen in Part I. of this report, the revenue was satisfactory, and the financial condition of the Colony sound.

Liquor Licences.

112. The following is a statement (as required by the Secretary of State) of liquor licences issued in the Colony and revenue derived therefrom in 1909 and 1910 :—

Year.	General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount received.
1909...	75	24	2	Nil	1,215 0 0
1910...	71	24	2	„	1,165 0 0

(General, hotel, and special licences are retail licences).

113. A map of the Colony is appended.

W. Hart Bennett,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas,
7th June, 1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

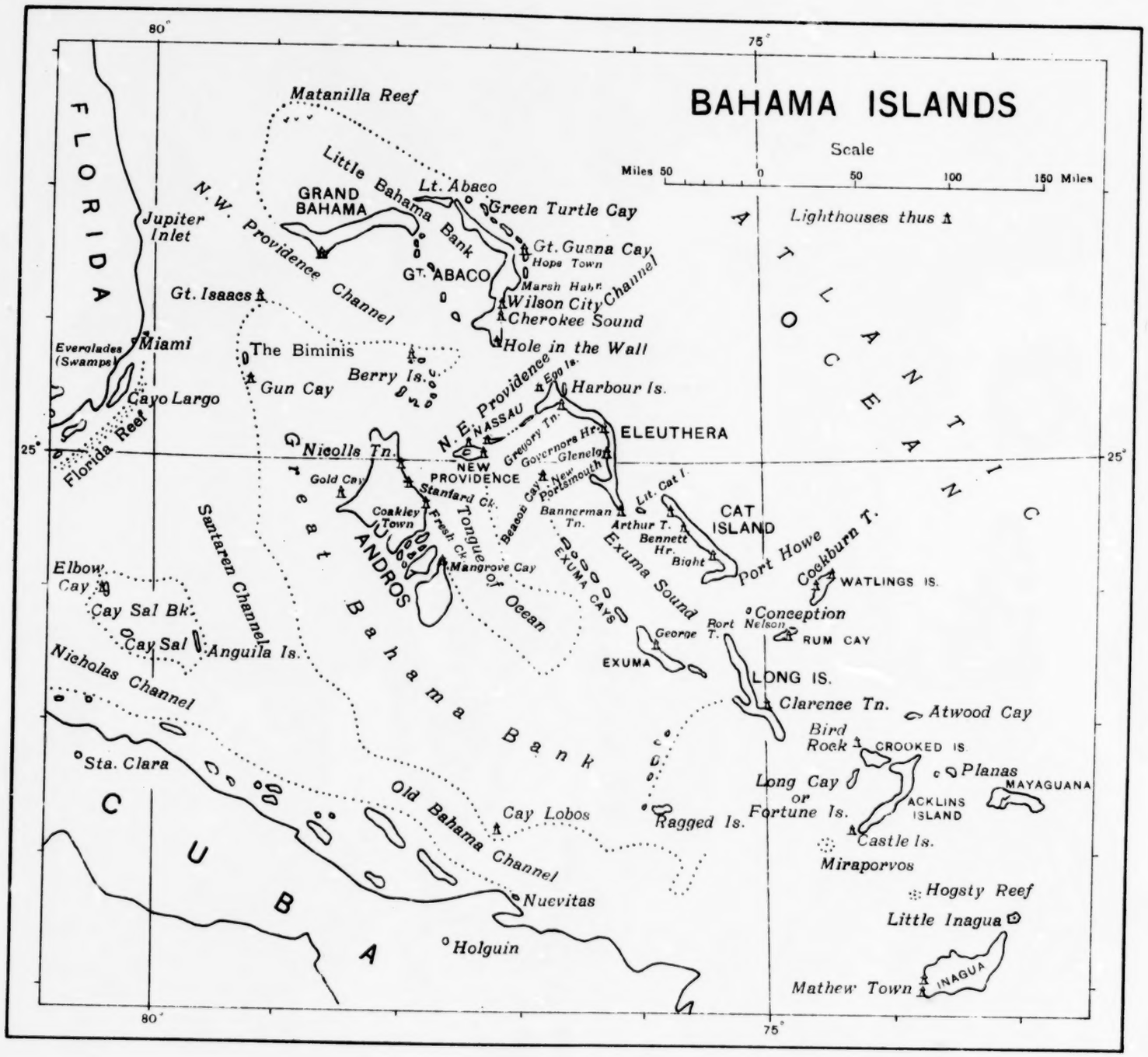
The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
647	Gibraltar	1909
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909–1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, E.H.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1911.

No. 741.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1911-12.

(For Report for 1910–11, *see* No. 684.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1912.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, S.W.; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH),
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America, the Continent of Europe and Abroad of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LONDON, W.C.

PRINTED BY
DARLING AND SON, LTD., BACON STREET, E.
1912.

[Cd. 6007—41.] *Price* 4*d.*

onicus publishing company, inc.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I.—Financial	4
II.—Trade, Agriculture and Industries	8
III.—Legislation	14
IV.—Education	17
V.—Government Institutions	18
VI.—Judicial Statistics	20
VII.—Vital Statistics	21
VIII.—Postal and Telegraph	22
IX.—General Observations	23

Sketch Map.

No. 741.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1910–11, *see* No. 684.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Nassau,
17th July, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my annual Report for 1911-12. The Statistical Blue Book I hope to send next mail.

I have, &c.,

W. HART BENNETT,
Administering the Government.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.

(25946—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 11/12. D & S.. A 2

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1912.

(In submitting this Report, I may explain that, although the figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1912 (the financial year of the Colony), the trade and customs statistics are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1911, while all other information is brought up as nearly as possible to the date of the Report).

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £85,592, as compared with £84,386 in 1910-11, an increase of £1,206, or more by £3,077 than the average of the previous five years.

2. The following are the comparative details:—

Heads of Revenue.	1910–11.	1911–12.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	69,334	71,563	2,229	—
2. Port Dues, &c.	451	546	95	—
3. Licences and Internal Revenue	3,329	3,116	—	213
4. Fees and Reimbursements ...	2,784	1,895	—	889
5. Post and Telegraph	4,696	4,923	227	—
6. Rents	245	230	—	15
7. Widows and Orphans' Pensions	99	90	—	9
8. Miscellaneous	191	6	—	185
9. Interest	39	43	4	—
10. Electric Light Fund	3,218	3,180	--	38
Totals	84,386	85,592	2,555	1,349

Nett increase £1,206.

Note.—The receipts from Crown land are not included in the above.

3. The revised estimate of revenue, including electric light, was £82,756, which has been exceeded by £2,836.

4. The following statement gives the Customs Revenue for 10 years:—

Customs Revenue.

Year.	Amount. £
1902-3	59,416
1903-4	59,881
1904-5	59,066
1905-6	64,422
1906-7	65,987
1907-8	75,144
1908-9	65,509
1909-10	64,023
1910-11	69,334
1911-12	71,563
Annual average ...	65,434

5. The expenditure was £82,676, as against £85,315 in 1910-11, or a decrease of £2,639 and less by £3,075 than the average of the previous five years. The details are:—

Service.	1910–11.	1911–12.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Charges Public Debt	6,526	6,534	8	—
2. Pensions	3,955	3,928	—	27
3. House of Assembly	1,587	1,773	186	—
4. Legislative Council	292	175	—	117
5. Governor and Staff	1,245	1,245	—	—
6. Colonial Secretary	1,009	985	—	24
7. Receiver-General	2,831	2,924	93	—
8. Judicial	7,917	7,852	—	65
9. Registrar-General	515	363	—	152
10. Police	6,888	7,319	431	—
11. Fire	542	521	—	21
12. Civil Engineer	883	652	—	231
13. Audit	474	480	6	—
14. Post Office	12,526	11,141	—	1,385
15. Telegraph and Telephones ...	1,049	1,016	—	33
16. Education	6,400	6,400	—	—
17. Public Libraries	505	505	—	—
18. Port and Marine...	1,987	1,972	—	15
19. Medical	593	8,202	517	—
20. Charitable Institutions	7,092	—		
21. Prisons	2,109	2,160	51	—
22. Public Works	10,915	9,808	—	1,107
23. Miscellaneous	2,904	3,343	439	—
24. Board of Agriculture	800	335	—	465
25. Marine Products Board... ...	300	300	—	—
26. Electric Light Construction ...	752	300	—	452
27. Electric Light Fund	2,719	2,443	—	276
Total	85,315	82,676	1,731	4,370

Nett decrease £2,639.

6. The revised estimate of expenditure was £85,263, on which £2,587 has been saved.

7. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue (+) or Expenditure (−).
	£	£	£
1907–8	89,694	79,790	+ 9,904
1908–9	81,862	99,655	− 17,793
1909–10	77,578	92,858	− 15,280
1910–11	84,386	85,315	− 929
1911–12	85,592	82,676	+ 2,916
Average	83,822	86,657	—

8. But it should be noted that in the expenditure is included a sum of over £16,000 for the installation of electric light in the

City of Nassau, a sum which might legitimately have been raised by loan. So that the average annual expenditure of the past five years, excluding that item, may be put at £83,457.

Also the expenditure, of course, includes repayment of, and interest on, loans, which should be wholly paid off in 14 years' time.

9. The following table showing the financial progress of the Colony for the past 25 years supplies an interesting record.

Revenue and Expenditure—1st January, 1886, to 31st December, 1911.

Year ending	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue.	Excess of Expenditure.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	£	
31st December, 1886 ...	43,920	44,629	—	709	20% tariff.
" " 1887 ...	45,869	43,955	1,914	—	
" " 1888 ...	45,579	44,404	1,174	—	
" " 1889 ...	46,230	48,476	—	2,246	
" " 1890 ...	54,826	48,688	6,138	—	
" " 1891 ...	52,813	55,805	—	2,992	
" " 1892 ...	59,704	60,342	—	638	
" " 1893 ...	53,225	47,911	5,314	—	
" " 1894 ...	47,117	56,947	—	9,830	
" " 1895 ...	55,643	55,758	—	115	25% tariff.
" " 1896 ...	65,126	60,135	4,991	—	
" " 1897 ...	62,754	63,405	—	651	
" " 1898 ...	74,382	64,148	10,234	—	
" " 1899 ...	76,698	68,749	7,949	—	20% tariff.
" " 1900 ...	78,651	82,837	—	4,186	
Fifteen months ended 31st March, 1902.	97,791	105,352	—	7,561	
Year ended 31st March—					
1903...	72,442	74,614	—	2,172	
1904...	71,337	74,038	—	2,701	
1905...	71,112	69,825	1,287	—	
1906...	77,294	70,256	7,038	—	
1907...	79,059	71,087	7,972	—	
1908...	89,694	79,790	9,904	—	
1909...	81,862	99,655	—	17,793	
1910...	77,578	92,858	—	15,280	
1911...	84,386	85,315	—	929	25% tariff.
Nine months ended 31st December, 1911.	60,034	57,378	2,656	—	
Totals, 26 years ...	1,725,125	1,726,357*	66,571	67,803	
Nett Excess of Expenditure.		1,232		1,232	

* Expenditure includes over £16,000 Electric Light which should eventually come back to revenue.

In 1894 Public Debt stood at £119,626; it is now £55,639, showing repayments in 17 years of £63,987 included in above Expenditure column.

Assets and Liabilities.

10. The following table shows the excess of assets over liabilities for the past five years:—

	£
On 31st March, 1908	45,692
,, ,, ,, 1909	16,207
,, ,, ,, 1910	6,597
,, ,, ,, 1911	10,740
,, ,, ,, 1912	15,483

Debt.

11. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent. was originally £113,126, and now stands at £51,568.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580.

The existing debt should be wholly liquidated by the year 1926.

Banks.

12. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to £66,000, was established in 1888, and is now continuing to do business under the Banking Act of 1909. It issues local notes of the values of £1 and four shillings.

The Royal Bank of Canada has also a branch in Nassau.

Currency.

13. The current coins are British silver and copper, and a very little gold. United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted if of $5 and upwards at the same rate as United States gold; if below $5 at the rate of four shillings to the dollar.

ESTIMATES 1ST APRIL, 1912—31ST MARCH, 1913.

14. The estimate of revenue for 1912-1913, including electric light, is put at £89,106, and the estimate of expenditure may be put at £87,000.

15. The House of Assembly did not find it possible during the Session just closed to reduce the high ad valorem duty of 25 per cent. The question will no doubt come up for consideration next Session.

16. In paragraph 17 of my Report for 1910-11, I adverted to the inexpediency of reducing Public Works Appropriations, particularly in view of the departure during recent years of a large number of the agricultural population to Florida in search of work. I am glad to say that, in the Appropriation Act of this year, the House have apparently recognised the justice of this plea, and, although they have reduced the proposed Appropriations to the capital Island of New Providence by some £1,363, the amount voted to the out-islands remains at the comparatively respectable figure of over £6,000.

17. On the whole the finances of the Colony cannot be considered as unsatisfactory, but it should be noted that the Legislature have never yet provided for the proverbial " rainy day "

by forming an Emergency Reserve Fund to be available for expenditure in connection with hurricanes or other unforeseen disaster.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

18. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1911, were valued at £311,095 (including £2,369 specie) as against £329,014 in 1910.

19. The following table shows whence they came, but inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in this Colony, these figures are not wholly to be relied upon. There is no direct communication with the United Kingdom, and consequently many goods really imported from that country are classified as if imported from the United States, where they are transhipped. It is only when merchants specially enter their goods as having been imported from the United Kingdom that they are so classified:—

Country.	Value, 1910.	Value, 1911.
	£	£
United States of America ...	220,621	203,550
United Kingdom	81,266	82,360
Canada	12,728	13,109
British West Indies	6,250	6,178
Foreign countries other than America	8,149	5,898
	£329,014	£311,095

20. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the imports were as follows:—

Headings.	America.		England.		Other Countries.		Total.	
	1910.	1911.	1910.	1911.	1910.	1911.	1910.	1911.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics.	139,077	114,659	38,304	38,695	21,350	19,819	198,731	173,173
2. Raw Materials ...	7,933	7,679	—	—	2,255	243	10,188	7,922
3. Manufactured Materials—								
Textile	19,543	25,256	31,109	32,551	1,630	1,338	52,282	59,145
Metal	18,291	19,067	3,296	3,151	—	—	21,587	22,218
Other	35,777	36,300	8,557	7,963	1,892	2,005	46,226	46,268
4. Coin	—	589	—	—	—	1,780	—	2,369
Totals	220,621	203,550	81,266	82,360	27,127	25,185	329,014	311,095

Exports.

21. The exports were valued at £209,251 (no specie), as against £193,803 (including specie £3,121) in 1910. £207,238 represented the produce of the Colony, as against £188,286 in the previous year.

22. The following table gives the quantities and values of the articles of Colonial produce exported.

Articles.	1910.		1911.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Cotton ... ... lbs.	6,472	206	13,135	361
Fruit and Vegetables—				
Cocoanuts ... ... No.	500	1	Nil	Nil
Grape Fruit ... ... „	244,250	846	309,194	1,027
Oranges ... ... „	42,130	68	15,400	20
Pineapples, fresh ... Doz.	8,000	500	3,000	150
„ preserved ... Cases	43,041	9,219	29,532	5,970
Tomatoes ... ... Bshls.	5,446	1,064	6,301	1,147
Other ... ... —	—	420	—	862
Lumber, &c.—				
Bark ... ... lbs.	147,138	2,236	211,094	2,072
Hardwood ... ... Tons	385	909	333	530
Lumber ... ... Feet	3,957,148	11,871	8,190,873	31,496
Salt ... ... Bshls.	11,150	96	19,334	180
Shells, conch ... ... No.	499,357	1,794	303,105	1,028
„ turtle ... ... lbs.	4,528	4,661	5,251	5,377
Sisal ... ... „	6,296,687	42,057	6,672,780	44,855
Sponge ... ... „	1,465,960	110,740	1,509,543	111,381
Other Articles ... ... —	—	1,598	—	782
Total values	—	188,286	—	207,238

23. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the exports were:—

Heading.	£	Value £
1. Live, animals, food, drink, and narcotics	—	9,551
2. Raw materials—		
Textile	158,669	
Other	39,083	
		197,752
3. Manufactured material—		
Textile	16	
Metal	230	
Other	1,612	
		1,948
4. Specie	—	—
Total		209,251

24. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	Value 1910. £	1911. £
United States of America ...	98,076	98,975
United Kingdom	24,064	29,349
Canada	1,636	2,994
British West Indies	94	—
Foreign countries other than America	64,416	75,920
Total	£188,286	207,238

25. A comparative return of the imports and exports for the past five years is subjoined, excluding specie.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1907	367,750	230,303	598,053
1908	367,126	177,182	544,308
1909	342,758	168,692	511,450
1910	329,014	190,682	519,696
1911	308,726	209,251	517,977
Total	1,715,374	976,110	2,691,484
Average of 5 years ...	343,075	195,222	538,307

Manufactories.

26. *Pine-apple Canning factories.*—The export of tinned pine-apples was, during the last four years:—

		£
In 1908,	59,839 cases valued at	10,997
,, 1909,	46,639 ,, ,,	8,999
,, 1910,	43,041 ,, ,,	9,219
,, 1911,	29,532 ,, ,,	5,970

There is one factory at Nassau operated by an American Company and one at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera.

Prices paid by the factories are low and deterioration of stock and want of expert knowledge as to suitable fertilisers account for the falling off in this industry.

27. *Sisal factories.*—There are six sisal factories in New Providence, the J. S. Johnson Company have three factories and cultivate some 1,100 acres with an output in 1911 of about 380,000 lbs.

The Bahamas Fibre and Produce Company have three factories, and cultivate some 1,400 acres with an output in 1911 of about 80,000 lbs.

The Sisal Fibre Company Estate at Little Abaco was not worked in 1911, but operations are about to be resumed.

At Whale Cay, Berry Islands, there is one Factory; 250 acres are planted with an output in 1911 of 60,000 lbs.

28.—Lumber mills.—At the Bahamas Timber Company's works at Abaco (an American concern), 12,757,986 feet were milled, of which 11,491,131 went to Cuba. Over 1,000 tons of ice were also manufactured.

Agriculture, Fruit Culture, &c.

29. *Sisal.*—The mainstay of the Colony in spite of the low prices prevailing—a little over a 1*d.* a lb.

			£
Exports in	1909,	5,846,447 lbs., value	48,805
,, ,,	1910,	6,290,686 ,, ,,	42,057

entirely to the United States.

30. I have often drawn attention to the necessity of legislating for a Government inspection of sisal as well as other products exported. Immature leaves are cut and the fibre is badly cleaned by the peasant proprietors. The situation is well put in the subjoined extract from a report by the Commissioner of Long Island:—

"Sisal, after all, is the most important plant. It is cultivated "more extensively than any or all of the above named, and gives "better and surer results. It suffers less from drought or neglect "and can be reaped at will.

"Yet the most thriftless and wasteful cannot cut, clean, sell, "and squander away his entire crop in a day. The people of this "district have realised its value and are daily extending their "cultivations. The fibre is pronounced good and obtains a ready "sale at a fairly good price sometimes. Yet nothing is being "done to foster the industry or enhance its value. It rather "seems as though all concerned have made up to do all in their "power to depreciate its value. They cut the leaf before it is "ripe, allow it to lie in the sun for days until the fibre is dis-"coloured, they soak it in all sorts of dirty pools, they only half "clean it, then when half dried they bundle it together and "present to the buyer who packs and exports it to foreign "markets. They contrive to get rid of it, and so things go on. "The properly matured and cleaned fibre presents an altogether "different appearance and would certainly attract attention and "tend to an advance of price.

"I persuaded the people here into exercising more care and "attention on this industry in the hope that their efforts would "receive encouragement from the buyers, who, I hoped, would "see what could be done and would be done if a difference was "made in the price of good and bad stuff. Numbers united and "resolved to put none but carefully-prepared fibre on the market "and for a few months it gave one pleasure to see them vieing "with each other in the handling of the leaf from the tree to the "buyer's counter. Two or three cargoes resembling very nearly "the machine-cleaned stuff were sent to Nassau and sold but no

"difference was made in prices. Outsiders jeered saying that "they got just as much for the ordinary rubbish as was paid for "what so much care was bestowed upon. Results—the good "work discontinued, the old methods returned to, and hand-"cleaned sisal is daily becoming worse. The public ought not to "be allowed to ruin so valuable an industry. The Government "ought to put on restrictions ere it becomes too late. There is no "other way of saving the industry and we cannot afford to lose it."

31. *Pine-apples.*—This cultivation is in a most unsatisfactory condition. As shown in paragraph 26, the export of the canned variety has enormously decreased. The export of the fresh fruit has almost entirely ceased, although a prominent buyer is now trying the experiment of shipping a cargo to the United States. The importation of new stock, a chemical analysis of the soil, and expert advice as to suitable fertilizers are urgently needed, and it is to be hoped the Legislature will take this matter seriously in hand next session, especially as there is now no Board of Agriculture in the Colony.

32. *Grape fruit.*—309,194 fruit were exported valued at £1,027, as against 244,250 valued at £846 in 1911, which is considerably below the average of the past five years.

33. *Oranges.*—The export was only 15,400 valued at £20 as against 42,130 valued at £68 in 1911. In 1907 the export was over a million and a half fruit valued at £3,000.

The Canadian Company, which up to recently did business in both oranges and grape fruit, no longer operates. It is to be hoped that in the near future this Colony may have improved communications with Canada and that with the opening of a market there these important cultivations may be revived.

34. *Cotton.*—Our experience in planting Sea Island cotton has not so far been satisfactory. Want of rain, or rain at the wrong time, destructive pests, and the want of cheap ginning facilities have militated against success.

Fisheries.

35. I append extracts from the Report of the Chairman of the Marine Products Board.

> "The sales of sponge on the Exchange at Nassau for the year showed £7,398 less than the preceding year.
>
> "The sales for 1911 were £71,703, and for 1910, £79,101. This decrease is partly attributable to the lessening quantity of wool sponge brought to market from the "Mud" sponging ground. Wool and velvet sponges are always sold together, and when the proportion of wool (the most valuable variety) decreases in proportion to velvet the cargoes sell correspondingly lower. For many years the proportion of these two classes of sponge have been averaging one-quarter wool and three-quarters velvet—the present proportion being about one-fifth wool and four-fifths velvet.
>
> "The Board is unable to account for this shrinkage in the supply of wool, neither can the fishermen give any satisfactory reason, though it is the opinion of some of them

that the velvet are more prolific than wool; whether this is true or not, the fact remains that the wool sponge from the "Mud" is slowly and surely decreasing in quantity.

"Without the aid of scientific research the Board cannot account for this and for other problems connected with the sponging industry, and the Board would again urge the Legislature* to secure the services of a biologist whose advice is greatly needed for the preservation of our valuable marine products.

"The area of water of Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, in which the Board is experimenting by strewing the bottom with wattles and conch shells in the hope that the sponge seeds may adhere and grow on them, has not been examined. Mr. Commissioner Farrington reports that owing to the depth of water in which the material was placed, he has been unable to obtain the services of a diver, but as soon as he can, a thorough report will be made. He has brought to the Board a piece of button wood on one end of which a fine sheep's wool sponge measuring 22½ inches in circumference has grown, and on the other end, two embryo sponges are attached. This piece of wood does not appear to have suffered from its probably long immersion, and there is an abundance of it in most of the islands in our group. How long it has taken this sponge to attain to this size the Board is unable to say, but it trusts that when an examination of the enclosure at Governor's Harbour is made, it will be able to form some definite opinion of the length of time it takes for sponges to grow to marketable sizes on the Eleutherian sponging grounds.

"The closing of large areas of water to fishing is expensive, as it is necessary to maintain watchmen with boats to protect them, and it is only by the strictest economy that the Board is able to do as much as it has done with the limited grant (£300 per annum) it has at its disposal.

Turtle Fishery.

"This fishery is not so prosperous as it has been in years past, owing to the capture three years ago of many of our vessels by the Cuban authorities, and the heavy penalties imposed by them, who alleged that they were found fishing within the territorial waters of their island, notwithstanding the protests of the masters of the turtling vessels that they were beyond the limit of Cuban waters. Owners of vessels are reluctant to fit them out for fishing on the high seas since this occurrence."

Land Grants.

36. 299 acres of Crown land were granted during 1911 leaving an approximate total of 365,203 acres granted and 2,434,957 ungranted.

---

* *Note by Colonial Secretary.* The House of Assembly have, however, again not found it possible to grant the necessary funds.

Squatting is still common and many holdings remain unsurveyed for want of staff.

37. *Shipping.*

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	188	18,807	175	18,103	69	55,704	70	56,801
American	12	5,318	11	5,311	98	237,767	96	226,590
Haytian	5	140	7	220	—	—	—	—
German	—	—	—	—	205	553,997	205	555,125
Cuban	—	—	—	—	2	4,537	2	4,537
Totals ...	205	24,265	193	23,634	374	852,095	373	840.053
Totals, 1910...	185	17,156	177	16,530	366	842,702	367	845,952

38. The number of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was—

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1907	11	190
1908	8	491*
1909	9	133
1910	9	336
1911	10	179

III.—LEGISLATION.

39. In Chapter III. of my Report for 1910-11 I briefly outlined the effect of the legislation of the Session of 1911.

40. I now append extracts from the Report of the Honorary Secretary of the Bar Association, Mr. Harcourt Malcolm, on the more important of the measures:—

"1 and 2 Geo. V.

"Chapter 1.—*Tariff.*

"The Tariff Amendment Act, 1911, substitutes four new Schedules for the four Schedules to the Tarifi Act, 1908. Considerable changes were made in the First Schedule—Duties on Imports—both by the increase in amount of the specific duties and by the transfer to this Schedule of many articles from the Duty Free Schedule. The Act also increases

* One of these was a schooner of 320 tons.

the *ad valorem* duty from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent.; imposes a surtax of 10 per cent. on the duties on spirits, &c., and also repeals the rebate of 10 per cent. on spirits, &c., imported in the wood. The Act was given a retrospective effect as from the 28th of March, 1911.

"Chapter 6.—*Stamp Duties.*

"The Stamp Act, 1911, is the consolidation and expansion in modern form of four other Acts dealing with this subject. The most important discretionary powers given to the executive are (1) to direct fees of Courts or Offices to be paid in stamps instead of in money, and (2) to direct the use of impressed or adhesive stamps. While, with the exception of bonds, no important increase is made in the amount of the duties, the list of documents liable to the duty is considerably added to.

"Chapter 7.—*Medical Officers.*

"The Medical Department Act, 1911, provided for the reorganization of the Medical Department of the Colony. The most important change is the creation of the office of Chief Medical Officer and the substitution of a Colonial Surgeon for the Assistant Surgeon. The Act consolidates nine Acts and parts of Acts, including all Acts dealing with The Bahamas General Hospital and out-island medical officers.

"Chapter 9.—*Sponge Fisheries.*

"This Act prohibits aliens from sponging in the waters of the Colony. In view of legislation in connection with the Australian and Ceylon pearl fisheries, and also of the recent Russian Bill regulating the White Sea fisheries, this Act would appear to be justifiable on other grounds than the plea that it is but an extension of the principle accepted in the Bahamas Act, 4 Edw. 7, c. 13, repealing 2 Edw. 7, c. 5."

"Amongst Bills lost or not proceeded with were measures relating to Degrees of Consanguinity, Registration of Births and Deaths, Real Property Tax, Water Supply for Nassau, Loans, and Magisterial Reorganization."

---

41. The experiment of convening the Assembly in the autumn instead of the winter was tried last session with the object of releasing members from their labour before the approach of the hot season, and was so far satisfactory that the Governor was able to prorogue the Legislature just prior to his departure on leave on the 25th May, 1912.

42. The most important of the Bills passed were:—

2 & 3 Geo. V.

Chapter 5.—To relieve the Imperial Public Trustee from the giving of bonds in Probate matters.

Chapter 8.—For the better Regulation and Control of Cinematograph and similar Exhibitions.

Chapter 10.—To consolidate and amend the law relating to promissory and other oaths, and to prescribe the mode in which such oaths may be administered.

Chapter 12.—To amend the Supreme Court Act, 1896, in reference to appeals to His Majesty in Council where the amount sought to be recovered on the value of the property in dispute is of the amount of £300 or upwards.

Chapter 15.—To amend the law for the Encouragement of Manufactories. This empowers the Governor in Council to allow any foreign, agricultural, or marine product to be manufactured and packed in a factory registered for the manufacture for sale or export of any agricultural product of the Colony. It was designed to permit of a local factory importing pineapples from Cuba for canning and export on account of the alleged scarcity of the local crop.

43. The Births and Deaths Registration Bill again failed to become law, but will be re-introduced next session.

44. The Lepers Bill was amended to a considerable extent by the House and was returned to that Chamber by the Legislative Council with further amendments—apparently not acceptable to the House—which did not proceed with the measure. A Bill dealing with this important subject will again be brought before the Legislature.

45. A Bill improving the mode of Assessment and Collection of the House Property Tax, having also the object of providing a Water Fund as well as the existing Lighting Fund, was thrown out. This Bill was introduced by a private member and was in a form which the Government would have been prepared to accept.

46. Unfortunately, also, a Bill to amend the Jury Act did not find favour.

47. The Bill which was not proceeded with at the session of 1911 for abolishing one of the two stipendiary and circuit magistrates, and consequently re-arranging certain offices, came up again for consideration, but was not passed into law, pending, it is understood, the preparation of a scheme for bringing the Registries of the Supreme Court and of the Record Office under one roof, which involves certain other questions affecting office accommodation, and necessitates expenditure thereon.

48. A very useful Bill to permit of Commissioners remaining for five years instead of three in any one district was thrown out. In the opinion of the Government three years is not a sufficiently long time to enable a Commissioner to get a grasp of his district, and the expenditure involved in these frequent transfers is wasteful.

49. The desirability of initiating legislation on modern lines with regard to wrecks, was again pressed upon the House, which, however, declined to pass a favourable resolution.

50. The House passed a resolution recommending that tenders be invited for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour at Nassau, &c., and agreeing to the raising of a loan of £100,000 should a suitable tender be received. (*See* paragraphs 103, *et seq.*)

51. The House have also appropriated out of the Cable Repair Fund a sum of £2,000 to enable, if possible, a wireless station to be established at Nassau capable of operation within a radius of 400 miles. (*See* paragraph 90.)

IV.—EDUCATION.

52. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools:—

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1909...	45	7,091	6,067	4,786	16	1,330	1,285	834	61	8,421	7,352	5,620
1910...	46	7,566	6,407	5,113	18	1,550	1,420	906	64	9,116	7,827	6,019
1911...	48	7,773	6,584	5,351	19	1,674	1,492	996	67	9,447	8,076	6,347

53. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education was as follows:—

——	1909.	1910.	1911.
Principal teachers	45	47	50
Assistant teachers	10	13	13
Pupil teachers...	3	7	7
Monitors	138	153	159
Sewing teachers	13	11	11
Industrial teacher	1	1	1
Students in training	5	4	4
Employed in aided schools	17	23	23
Total	232	259	268

54. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

——	1909.			1910.			1911.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board schools ...	3,161	2,906	4,786	3,400	3,007	6,407	3,417	3,167	6,584
Aided private schools	677	610	1,285	736	684	1,420	779	713	1,492
Church of England	783	901	1,657	853	995	1,848	750	875	1,625
Roman Catholic ...	240	326	566	203	299	502	220	311	531
Private schools ...	148	199	347	110	180	290	87	135	222
Wesleyan schools ...	41	43	84	16	37	53	—	—	—
Total	5,143	5,062	10,205	5,318	5,202	10,520	5,253	5,201	10,454

55. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board, there were 33 maintained by the Church of England, six of which

were in New Providence. Average roll 1,625, and average attendance 925.

56. There were also four Roman Catholic schools, total roll 531, and 11 private schools, roll 222.

57. By an Act passed in 1908, the annual vote to the Board of Education was raised to £6,000 and the school age from 13 to 14 years.

58. There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education.

59. Private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instructions as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School ...	46	38	84
Nassau Grammar School	17	—	17
St. Francis Xavier's Academy	12	28	40
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera)	9	8	17
Wilson City (Abaco)	4	5	9
Total	88	79	167

60. It is a matter for serious consideration whether the primary education given in the Board Schools should not be restricted to the three R's., and more attention paid to industrial, agricultural, and technical instruction; but it is difficult to see how much can be done in this direction in view of the limited grant, the large number of teachers—mostly poorly paid—to be provided, and the widely-scattered nature of the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

61. The Bahamas General Hospital, formerly known as the New Providence Asylum and now as "the Hospital," was established in 1809 as a poor-house and hospital for the poor and infirm of the island. Since then the institution has grown steadily, and its functions have been extended in many directions. In 1845 it was placed under a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and now comprises the hospital proper, the infirmary, dispensary, the lunatic asylum, and the leper compound.

62. The number of inmates on 1st January, 1911, was:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	29	15	44
Victoria Infirmary	21	13	34
Lunatic Asylum	20	22	42
Leper Asylum...	6	2	8
Total	76	52	128

Six hundred and forty-seven patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 775, of whom 273 were discharged recovered, 106 relieved, 84 discharged not improved, and 102 died. Every year many cases are received in a hopeless—often moribund—condition.

63. At the close of the year 129 remained, distributed as follows:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	24	25	49
Victoria Infirmary	26	14	40
Lunatic Asylum	18	18	36
Leper Asylum...	3	1	4
Total	71	58	129

The Assistant Surgeon visited 430 cases at their homes on certificate from the Relieving Officer.

64. It is probable that the accommodation for lepers will, in the near future, have to be enlarged and improved, in view of the compulsory segregation of lepers, which is under consideration.

65. The institution also maintains a Cottage Hospital at Inagua, the cost of which in 1911-12, exclusive of the salary of the Public Physician and of outdoor relief, was £253.

Savings Bank.

66. The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 30th June, 1911 (the end of the Savings Bank year), was 2,108; on 30th June, 1910, 2,186.

67. The deposits and withdrawals were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1909	3,811	9,778	3,098	13,463
1910	2,946	6,878	2,632	8,921
1911	2,788	6,973	2,357	9,325

68. This is the third time that the withdrawals have exceeded the deposits. This does not necessarily imply a decrease of thrift on the part of the people, but may be ascribed to the fact that the local banks now offer better terms to depositors than does the Government.

69. The balance due to depositors on 30th June, 1911, was £25,498, as against £27,248 in 1910.

70. During the year 1910 branches of the bank were established in all the out-islands, having previously been in operation in only

three or four of them. But the transactions so far have been small, as the people seem to prefer dealing direct with the office at Nassau. In 1910-11 there were 260 deposits, amounting to £814, and 100 withdrawals amounting to £327 at 13 offices out of 19.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

71. The strength of the force on 1st January, 1912, was 80. Four men were discharged and six were enlisted (all local men) during 1911.

72. Under an Act of 1911 a number of men are permitted to extend their service beyond 21 years, which will undoubtedly tend to the efficiency of the force, besides reducing its cost.

Prisons.

73. The number of persons committed to the Nassau Prison was 198, as against 189 in 1910. Of these, 119 were men, 60 women, and 19 juveniles. The daily average number in prison was 61·82, as against 54·31 in the previous year.

74. Two hundred and twenty-six punishments were inflicted, against 169 in 1910, but they were not serious, and flogging was not resorted to.

75. Tailoring, carpentering, bread-making, and the making of concrete poles for the electrical and telephonic services, are carried on in the prison.

Criminal Statistics.

76. Comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years:—

—	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
The number of persons brought before the magistrates.	2,562	2,725	2,799	2,522
The number of summary convictions:—				
1. Offences against property with violence to the person.	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against property ...	182	117	156	175
3. Other offences against the person ...	250	241	222	268
4. Other offences.	1,444	1,475	1,701	1,475
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts:—				
1. Homicide	—	1	1	1
2. Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide.	—	—	—	—
3. Other offences against property ...	20	11	17	3
4. Other offences against the person ...	2	2	4	6
5. Other offences	3	6	3	13
The number of persons acquitted:—				
1. In the Inferior Courts	426	493	438	422
2. In the Superior Courts	8	6	5	11

77. The most serious case was that of a murder effected by administering the poison "Rough on Rats," for which the offender suffered the extreme penalty.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

78.—The births in 1911 numbered 1,905, as against 2,129 in 1910. The deaths were 1,215, as against 1,457 in 1910.

Birth rate 3·4 per cent.
Death rate 2·1 per cent.

79. No death certificates are required.

80. The population ascertained by the Census of 2nd April, 1911, was 55,944

Births, 2nd April—31st December, 1911	1,362	
Deaths, 2nd April—31st December, 1911	867	
Add excess of births		595
		56,539
Deduct excess of emigrants over immigrants—1st April—31st December, 1911 ...		467
Estimated population 1st January, 1912...		56,072

81. The general health of the Colony was good, except for a few sporadic cases of typhoid fever; but recently there has been a mild, though wide-spread, epidemic of measles.

Meteorological Statistics.

82. The following are the meteorological data for the past six years:—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of.		Extremes of.		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
								Inches.
1906	76·7	79·2	77·9	81·8	70·9	91·0	55·0	59·60
1907	77·9	79·7	78·8	82·4	71·5	91·5	62·0	39·39
1908	77·6	79·8	78·6	82·6	71·7	93·0	57·0	69·05*
1909	76·5	79·5	78·0	81·5	71·7	90·0	54·5	43·48
1910	76·4	79·4	77·0	80·9	71·3	90·5	58·5	25·71
1911	77·5	80·1	78·8	81·7	72·1	90·0	61·0	40·15
Average for six years.	77·1	79·6	78·2	81·8	71·5	92·5	58·0	46·23

* Hurricane year.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

83. The postal revenue for 1911-12 was £3,952, as compared with £3,782 the previous year. The expenditure was £648, as against £523, not including the annual foreign and interinsular mail services amounting to some £10,000 a year.

Sales of stamps realised £2,832, as against £2,357 in 1910-11.

84. The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 791,233, or 27,860 more than in the previous year. Details are subjoined:—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
Letters, Foreign ...	256,069	275,022	18,953	—	169,238	176,440	7,202	—
Postcards „ ...	12,114	12,691	577	—	28,857	27,392	—	1,465
Letters, Interinsular ...	65,832	66,786	954	—	78,814	82,359	3,545	—
Postcards, „ ...	869	693	—	176	3,362	3,178	—	184
News. and Books, For.	100,636	99,880	—	756	13,838	14,041	203	—
News. and Books, Inter.	1,274	1,444	170	—	32,470	31,307	—	1,063

85. The parcel post figures were as follows:—

	Number.	Value. £
From United Kingdom	2,742	3,711
„ United States	3,946	2,806
„ Canada	107	61
To United Kingdom	563	1,085
„ United States	559	222
„ Canada	6	10
Total	7,923	£7,895

In 1910-11 the figures were:—

	Number.	Value. £
From United Kingdom	2,625	4,118
„ United States	4,260	3,002

86. Money orders were issued and paid as follows:—

Countries.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	768	1,324	122	510
United States	1,699	3,381	541	1,381
Canada	72	33	67	104
Total	2,539	4,738	730	1,995

In 1910-11 the totals were:—

Issued, 2,307; value, £5,885. Paid, 740; value, £2,054.

87. 1,633 British postal orders, value £637, were issued, and 489, value £279, drawn.

Telegraph.

88. The revenue of the telegraph department was £1,247, and the expenditure £566.

89. 3,604 messages passed over the cable between Nassau and Jupiter (Florida), of which 307 were to and from Great Britain. The total number in 1910 was 3,761.

90. The 20 years' contract with the Henley Telegraph Company has recently expired; the cable to Florida now becomes the absolute property of the Colonial Government, and the accumulated Repair Fund has, in accordance with the terms of the contract, been divided between the contractors and the Colony, leaving the latter in possession of a sum of over £4,000. Of this, the Legislature has recently allocated £2,000 to enable the Government to establish a wireless station in Nassau.

Telephones.

91. Many telephone stations are now working in Nassau and suburbs. The revenue for the year was £1,055, and the expenditure, including interest on loan, £1,118.

92. There has been some agitation amongst the public in favour of a reduction of the rates, which are £5 per annum for business houses and £3 10*s*. per annum for private renters, for an unlimited all day and night service, but, having in view the fact that these rates are not in any case high, and that it is necessary to provide for extensions and for possible expenditure on hurricane damage, the Government has not thought it wise to accede to the demand.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Foreign Labour.

93. The following table summarises the foreign labour traffic for five years:—

—	Number of steam vessels outwards bound.	Number of labourers engaged		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiration of engagement	
		To work on board ships (Stevedores).	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c.		From work on board ships (Stevedores).	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c.
Inagua:						
1907 ...	92	2,887	595	95	2,985	396
1908 ...	55	1,867	—	54	1,720	314
1909 ...	58	1,969	121	60	1,997	79
1910 ...	80	2,740	195	75	2,572	—
1911 ...	87	3,091	75	83	2,988	170
Long Cay:						
1907 ...	85	2,557	458	89	2,476	446
1908 ...	59	1,803	—	63	1,740	290
1909 ...	51	1,674	—	51	1,604	—
1910 ...	42	1,250	—	42	1,113	—
1911 ...	31	936	367	31	936	—

94. The Commissioner at Inagua reports as under:—

Labourers on steam vessels are required to perform any work they may be called upon to do. Pay of foreman $1 a day, ordinary labourers 50 cents a day, and on Sundays double pay; overtime ten cents an hour. 75 men were employed during the year by the C. C. Mengal Company, Belize, principally building camps and handling mahogany in the forest. The steamers on which the men were taken were those of the Hamburg-American Line and the George D. Emery Company.

95. And the Commissioner at Long Cay, as follows:—

The labourers engaged for stevedore labour on steamships are employed by Hamburg-American Line at 50 cents per day and 10 cents per hour overtime. The average is about £2 10*s.* for 17 days—$15 per month.

Tourists.

96. As a winter health and pleasure resort, Nassau, as usual, attracted a large number of Canadian and American visitors, and the hotels and boarding houses were all fairly full.

97. The Colony is not, however, sufficiently advertised. Some three years ago the Legislature voted £1,000 for this purpose, but to be of any use the vote should be repeated annually. A certain amount of advertising is, of course, done by the steamship lines and the American Hotel; but the attractions of Nassau are not nearly so well known in the United States as are those of Bermuda, where there is considerable competition between steamship lines and hotels.

98. It is with the view of drawing the attention of the travelling public to picturesque Nassau that I attach to this report a few photographs,* including some natural colour prints.

99. The contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, which provides for regular communication with Florida during the winter months, and for the maintenance of a large hotel, expires at the end of 1913. Under this contract the Colony pays £5,000 a year, and in view of a possible demand for an increase of this subsidy, it is a matter for regret that local capitalists have not, ere now, embarked on some scheme for the provision of another large hotel with a moderate tariff.

Relations with Canada.

100. The Colony was, perhaps unfortunately, not represented at the recent Reciprocity Conference at Ottawa, but the House of Assembly declined to recommend a grant to pay the expenses of the Delegates.

Toronto Exhibition, 1911.

101. The Bahamas were very successfully represented, at comparatively small expenditure, at the Toronto Exhibition of August-September, 1911, and it is proposed that they shall again be represented at the forthcoming Exhibition at the same city.

Dredging Nassau Harbour.

102. This important question has been under consideration for a great number of years, but beyond the accumulation of reports and minutes nothing has been done.

103. But in the Session of 1911 the House adopted a Report recommending that tenders be invited from three responsible firms for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour, and providing that, in case the Colony should not be able to enter into a contract for the work, each of three firms tendering should be allowed the sum of £200 to defray the expenses of the expert report, but that, in the event of the Colony making a contract, no expenses should be allowed.

104. It was not, of course, possible to call for tenders on such indefinite terms, and the Governor, in a message of the 13th March, 1912, furnished the House with certain facts and figures showing the estimated number of cubic yards of rock and sand to be removed in order to cut a channel through the bar, having a minimum depth of 30 feet, and to make a basin in the harbour of similar depth.

105. Thereupon the House adopted a Report of a Select Committee recommending that tenders be invited for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour, and also for blowing up the reef

* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE:—A special impression containing reproductions of these photographs has been published by the Colonial Government and may be obtained through Messrs. Wyman and Sons.

at the entrance of Cochrane's Anchorage, and recommending, further, that the House should agree to the raising of a loan of £100,000 should a suitable tender be submitted.

106. The action to be taken on this proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Liquor Licences.

107. The following is a statement of liquor licences issued in the Colony, and revenue derived therefrom in 1910 and 1911.

Year.	General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount received.
					£ *s.* *d.*
1910...	71	24	2	—	1,165 0 0
1911...	71	21	3	—	1,155 0 0

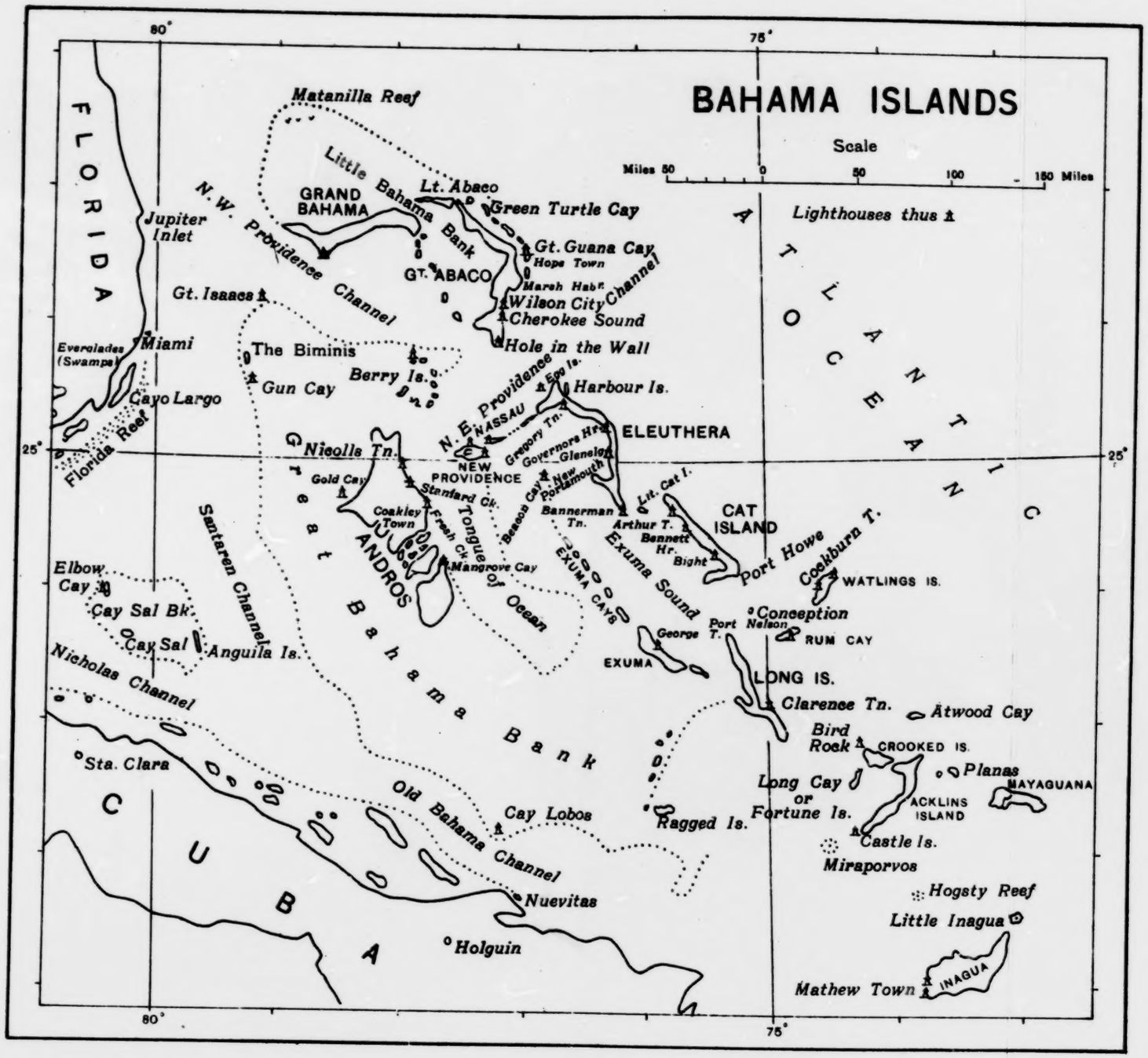
(General, hotel, and special licences are retail licences.)

108. A map of the Colony is appended.

W. Hart Bennett,

Colonial Secretary,
Administering the Government.

Government House,
Nassau, Bahamas,
17 July, 1912.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
723	Hong Kong	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
726	Turks and Caicos Island	"
727	Fiji	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	"
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34–40, BACON STREET, E.

1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 766.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1912-13.

(For Report for 1911-12, *see* No. 741.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty

September, 1913.

LONDON:
PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING AND SON, LTD., BACON STREET, E.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH),
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America, the Continent of Europe and Abroad of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LONDON, W.C.

1913.

[Cd. 7050-7.] *Price* 3½*d*

CONTENTS.

		PAGE.
I.	FINANCIAL	4
II.	TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES	6
III.	LEGISLATION	12
IV.	EDUCATION	14
V.	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	16
VI.	JUDICIAL STATISTICS	17
VII.	VITAL STATISTICS	18
VIII.	POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH	19
IX.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	21

SKETCH MAP.

No. 766.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1911-12, *see* No. 741.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bahamas,
29th July, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Bahamas for the year 1912-13, accompanied by a report by the Acting Colonial Secretary on the contents thereof.

I have, &c.,

G. B. HADDON-SMITH,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C.,
&c. &c., &c.

(31363—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 9/13. D & S A 2

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1913.

In submitting this Report, I may explain that, although the figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1913 (the financial year of the Colony), the trade and customs statistics and other information are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £97,574, as compared with £85,592 in 1911-12, an increase of £11,982, or more by £13,752 than the average of the previous five years.

2. The following are the comparative details:—

Heads of Revenue.	1911–12.	1912–13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	71,563	78,428	6,865	—
2. Port Dues, &c.	546	320	—	226
3. Licences and Internal Revenue...	3,116	3,606	490	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements ...	1,895	2,730	835	—
5. Post and Telegraph	4,923	8,703	3,780	—
6. Rents	230	78	—	152
7. Widows' and Orphans' Pensions	90	27	—	63
8. Miscellaneous	6	66	60	—
9. Interest	43	56	13	—
10. Electric Light Fund	3,180	3,560	380	—
Totals	85,592	97,574	12,423	441

Nett increase, £11,982.

Note.—The receipts from Crown land are not included in the above.

3. The revised estimate of revenue, including electric light, was £88,890, which has been exceeded by £8,684.

4. The following statement gives the Customs revenue for 10 years:—

Customs Revenue.

Year.	Amount. £
1903-4	59,881
1904-5	59,066
1905-6	64,422
1906-7	65,987
1907-8	75,144
1908-9	65,509
1909-10	64,023
1910-11	69,334
1911-12	71,563
1912-13	78,428
Annual average ...	67,335

5. The expenditure was £88,077, as against £82,676 in 1911-12, or an increase of £5,401, and less by £19 than the average of the previous five years. The details are:—

Service.	1911–12.	1912–13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Charges Public Debt	6,534	6,685	151	—
2. Pensions	3,928	3,823	—	105
3. House of Assembly	1,773	1,424	—	349
4. Legislative Council	175	204	29	—
5. Governor and Staff	1,245	1,217	—	28
6. Colonial Secretary	985	1,006	21	—
7. Receiver General	2,924	2,908	—	16
8. Judicial	7,852	8,126	274	—
9. Registrar General	363	463	100	—
10. Police	7,319	7,399	80	—
11. Fire	521	514	—	7
12. Civil Engineer	652	497	—	155
13. Audit	480	433	—	47
14. Post Office	11,141	10,362	—	779
15. Telegraph and Telephones ...	1,016	725	—	291
16. Education...	6,400	6,385	—	15
17. Public Libraries	505	506	1	—
18. Port and Marine...	1,972	2,037	65	—
19. Medical	8,202	9,154	952	—
20. Prisons	2,160	2,088	—	72
21. Public Works	9,808	14,257	4,449	—
22. Miscellaneous	3,343	2,711	—	632
23. Board of Agriculture	335	—	—	335
24. Marine Products Board... ...	300	300	—	—
25. Electric Light Construction ...	300	39	—	261
26. Electric Light Fund	2,443	2,814	371	—
Surplus Funds Invested... ..	—	2,000	2,000	...
Total	82,676	88,077	8,493	3,092

Nett decrease, £5,401

6. The revised estimate of expenditure was £88,215, on which £138 has been saved; it will be noted, however, that the expenditure includes investments amounting to £2,000.

7. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue (+) or Expenditure (−)
	£	£	£
1908–9	81,862	99,655	−17,793
1909–10	77,578	92,858	−15,280
1910–11	84,386	85,315	− 929
1911–12	85,592	82,676	+ 2,916
1912–13	97,574	88,077	+ 9,497
Average	85,398	89,716	—

8. In the expenditure is included a sum of over £16,000 for the installation of electric light in the City of Nassau, a sum which might legitimately have been raised by loan; so that the average annual expenditure of the past five years, excluding that item, may be put at £86,516.

Also the expenditure, of course, includes repayment of, and interest on, loans, which should be wholly paid off in 13 years' time.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The following table shows the excess of assets over liabilities for the past five years:—

	£
On 31st March, 1909	16,207
,, ,, ,, 1910	6,597
,, ,, ,, 1911	10,740
,, ,, ,, 1912	15,483
,, ,, ,, 1913	30,048

Debt.

10. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent., was originally £113,126, and now stands at £47,223.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580.

The existing debt should be wholly liquidated by the year 1926.

Banks.

11. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid-up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to £70,874, was established in 1888, and is now continuing to do business under the Banking Act of 1909. It issues local notes of the values of £1 and four shillings.

The Royal Bank of Canada has also a branch in Nassau, and deposits in the Colony amounting to $339,439.

Currency.

12. The current coins are British silver and copper, and a very little gold. United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted, if of $5 and upwards, at the same rate as United States gold; if below $5, at the rate of four shillings to the dollar.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

13. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1912, were valued at £358,111 (including £303 specie), as against £311,095 in 1911.

14. The following table shows whence they came, but inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in this Colony, these figures are not wholly to be relied upon. There is no direct

communication with the United Kingdom, and consequently many goods really imported from that country are classified as if imported from the United States, where they are transhipped. It is only when merchants specially enter their goods as having been imported from the United Kingdom that they are so classified:—

Country	Value, 1911.	Value, 1912.
	£	£
United States of America ...	203,550	247,551
United Kingdom	82,360	84,485
Canada	13,109	12,714
British West Indies	6,178	7,067
Foreign countries other than America	5,898	6,294
	£311,095	£358,111

15. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the imports were as follows:—

Heading.	America.		England.		Other Countries.		Total.	
	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	114,659	138,059	38,695	36,944	19,819	22,145	173,173	197,148
2. Raw Materials ...	7,679	10,767	—	—	243	554	7,922	11,321
3. Manufactured Materials—								
Textiles ...	25,256	28,582	32,551	32,542	1,338	1,811	59,145	62,935
Metal	19,067	28,776	3,151	5,279	—	197	22,218	34,252
Other	36,300	41,367	7,963	9,417	2,005	1,368	46,268	52,152
4. Coin	589	—	—	303	1,780	—	2,369	303
Totals ...	203,550	247,551	82,360	84,485	25,185	26,075	311,095	358,111

Exports.

16. The exports were valued at £276,115 (including specie £30), as against £209,251 in 1911. £272,355 represented the produce of the Colony, as against £207,238 in the previous year.

17. The following table gives the quantities and values of the articles of Colonial produce exported:—

Articles.	1911.		1912.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Cotton ... ... lbs.	13,135	361	13,301	2,211
Fruit and Vegetables—				
Cocoanuts ... ... No.	Nil	Nil.	16,347	52
Grape Fruit ... ... „	309,194	1,027	200,280	563
Oranges ... ... „	15,400	20	121,180	172

Articles.	1911.		1912.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Pineapples, fresh ... Doz.	3,000	150	—	—
„ preserved ... Cases.	29,532	5,970	27,536	5,175
Tomatoes ... ... Bshls.	6,301	1,147	5,054	769
Other ... ... —	—	862	—	431
Lumber, &c.—				
Bark ... ... lbs.	211,094	2,072	53,737	557
Hardwood ... ... Tons.	333	530	199	210
Lumber ... ... Feet.	8,190,873	31,496	5,850,506	21,293
Salt ... ... Bshls.	19,334	180	6,800	70
Shells, conch ... ... No.	303,105	1,028	106,370	450
„ turtle ... ... lbs.	5,251	5,377	3,167	3,151
Sisal ... ... „	6,672,780	44,855	8,067,485	66,427
Sponge ... ... „	1,509,543	111,381	2,157,495	172,051
Other Articles .. ... —	—	782	—	2,533
Total Values	—	207,238	—	276,115

18. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the exports were:—

Heading.	Value.	
	£	£
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	—	7,364
2. Raw materials—		
Textile	239,256	
Other	25,502	
		264,758
3. Manufactured material—		
Textile	11	
Metal	347	
Other	3,605	
		3,963
4. Specie	—	30
Total		276,115

19. Colonial produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	Value. 1911.	1912.
	£	£
United States of America ...	98,975	135,669
United Kingdom	29,349	55,320
Canada	2,994	1,337
British West Indies	—	70
Foreign countries other than America	75,920	83,719
Total	207,238	276,115

20. A comparative return of the imports and exports for the past five years is subjoined, excluding specie:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1908	367,126	177,182	544,308
1909	342,758	168,692	511,450
1910	329,014	190,682	519,696
1911	308,726	209,251	517,977
1912	358,111	276,115	634,226
Total	1,705,735	1,021,922	2,727,657
Average of 5 years ...	341,147	204,384	545,531

MANUFACTORIES.

21. *Pineapple canning factories.*—The export of tinned pineapples was, during the last five years:—

			£
In 1908,	59,839	cases valued at	10,997
,, 1909,	46,639	,, ,, ,,	8,999
,, 1910,	43,041	,, ,, ,,	9,219
,, 1911,	29,532	,, ,, ,,	5,970
,, 1912,	27,536	,, ,, ,,	5,175

There is one factory at Nassau operated by an American company and one at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera.

Prices paid by the factories are low, and deterioration of stock, want of expert knowledge as to suitable fertilisers and consequent small crop of fruit account for the falling off in this industry.

22. *Sisal factories.*—There are six sisal factories in New Providence; the J. S. Johnson Company have three factories and cultivate some 1,200 acres, with an output in 1912 of 327,195 lbs.

The Bahamas Fibre and Produce Company have three factories, and cultivate some 1,400 acres, with an output in 1912 of 100,000 lbs.

The Sisal Fibre Company Estate at Little Abaco resumed operations in 1912, and the output was 79,664 lbs.

At Whale Cay, Berry Islands, there is one factory; 250 acres are planted, with an output in 1912 of 20,000 lbs.

23. *Lumber mills.*—At the Bahamas Timber Company's works at Abaco (an American concern), 9,538,870 feet were milled, of which 5,850,506 went to Cuba. 1,260 tons of ice were also manufactured.

AGRICULTURE, FRUIT CULTURE, &c.

24. *Sisal*—

			£
Exports in 1911,	6,672,780 lbs.,	value	44,855
,, ,, 1912,	8,067,485 ,,	,,	66,427

—entirely to the United States.

In last year's report attention was drawn to the necessity for Government inpection of sisal, and it is gratifying to learn that the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce has the question under its consideration. It is hoped that the result will be the adoption of some measures to meet a situation which is having a bad effect on the reputation of Bahamas hemp in the foreign market.

The price for sisal has been better than usual during the greater part of the year; consequently the price locally has risen in proportion for hand-cleaned stuff, an opportunity which the people have generally availed themselves of.

25.—*Pineapples.*—This cultivation is in a most unsatisfactory condition. As shown in paragraph 21, the export of the canned variety continues to decrease. The export of the fresh fruit has entirely ceased.

The importation of new stock, a chemical analysis of the soil, and expert advice as to fertilisers are urgently needed, and it is to be hoped the Legislature now in session will take this matter seriously in hand.

26. *Grape fruit.*—200,280 fruit were exported, valued at £563, as against 309,194, valued at £1,027, in 1911, which is considerably below the average of the past five years.

27. *Oranges.*—The export was 121,180, valued at £172, as against 15,400, valued at £20, in 1911, indicating an increase. In 1907 the export was over a million and a half fruit, valued at £3,000.

It is to be hoped that in the near future this Colony may have improved communications with Canada, and that with the opening of a market there these important cultivations may be revived; another factor would be a reduction in the tariff duties of the United States, which is the nearest market for our fruit.

Fisheries.

28. I append extracts from the Report of the Chairman of the Marine Products Board:—

"The sales of sponge on the Exchange at Nassau for the year aggregate £95,739 3*s.* 3*d.*, the largest sale since 1907, the returns for that year being £97,020 0*s.* 1*d.*

"The chief causes of this satisfactory condition are to be found in the better quality of the sponge brought to the Exchange and the active demand for all grades of goods in foreign markets.

Acklin's Bight.

"Reports from this Reserve were so favourable that the Board did not think it expedient to continue the closure.

"In December the caretaker wrote, 'With reference to my opinion for raising the closure on date as suggested and notified to be on January 1st, 1913, I would advise the closure to be raised.' The reasons advanced were convincing, and the Board will watch the output and endeavour to give an account of the sales to the Honourable House in their next report.

"The Bight was closed on February, 1909.

Norther Bight, Andros.

"This district was closed on the 1st day of December, 1911, for two years and does not seem to improve as rapidly as it did when first closed a few years ago. It is probable that the closure will have to be

continued for some time after the period set by the Board at first. Two watchmen are employed to guard the Reserve against poachers.

Governor's Harbour.

"The Board regrets that it is unable to furnish information concerning the experimental reserve in those waters. Mr. Commissioner Farrington complained that the continued bad weather prevented him from making a survey, and Mr. Commissioner Wright, who succeeded him, promises the Board a report, but so far none has reached it.

"The Secretary, however, says that he has been informed that the material placed in the Reserve has sponge growing on it, but in the absence of any direct information the Board does not feel justified in authorising any further expenditure in that direction.

Bight of Abaco.

"The rule restricting the size of Abaco wool and velvet sponge to be gathered is still in force, the Board thinking it wise to maintain a rule that has been attended with such favourable results.

Turtle Fishery.

"The turtle fishery in the Bahamas has long been an object of concern. Year by year the catch is diminishing, and unless some remedy is found turtle-shell may soon cease to be classed among our exports.

"The Board has raised the limit of sizes to be captured from 15 to 17 inches in Hawk's Bill turtle and from 13 to 15 in green turtle, but this rule cannot have the effect of increasing the quantity of turtle, though it may allow the smaller turtle to grow to more marketable sizes. The remedy is a complete closure of the fishery, but with no means of protecting the fishery the Board hesitates to recommend such a sweeping measure, a measure that will have the effect of destroying the trade without benefiting the Colony."

Land Grants.

29. 228 acres of Crown land were granted during 1912, leaving an approximate total of 365,431 acres granted and 2,434,730 ungranted.

Squatting is still common, and many holdings remain unsurveyed for want of staff.

30. *Shipping.*

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	147	15,121	145	15,013	61	48,703	61	48,721
American	8	2,189	11	3,046	94	221,220	93	218,321
Haytian	12	181	11	171	—	—	—	—
Russian	1	349	1	349	—	—	—	—
Cuban	1	30	1	30	1	1,151	1	1,151
German	—	—	—	—	119	331,085	120	332,259
Norwegian	—	—	—	—	4	3,500	5	5,254
Totals	169	17,870	169	18,609	279	605,659	280	605,706
Totals, 1911 ...	205	24,265	193	23,634	374	852,095	373	840,053

31. The number of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was:—

Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1908	8	491*
1909	9	133
1910	9	336
1911	10	179
1912	2	22

III.—LEGISLATION.

33. In Chapter III. of the Report for 1911 the result of the legislation in the session of 1912 was reviewed, and it is now re-introduced.

34. The Legislature was prorogued on the 22nd May, and the most important of the Bills passed were:—

2 & 3 Geo. V.

Chapter 5.—To relieve the Imperial Public Trustee from the giving of bonds in Probate matters.

Chapter 8.—For the better Regulation and Control of Cinematograph and similar Exhibitions.

Chapter 10.—To consolidate and amend the law relating to promissory and other oaths, and to prescribe the mode in which such oaths may be administered.

Chapter 12.—To amend the Supreme Court Act, 1896, in reference to appeals to His Majesty in Council where the amount sought to be recovered on the value of the property in dispute is of the amount of £300 or upwards.

Chapter 15.—To amend the law for the encouragement of manufactories. This empowers the Governor in Council to allow any foreign, agricultural, or marine product to be manufactured and packed in a factory registered for the manufacture for sale or export of any agricultural product of the Colony. It was designed to permit of a local factory importing pineapples from Cuba for canning and export on account of the alleged scarcity of the local crop.

35. The Births and Deaths Registration Bill again failed to become law, but will be re-introduced next session.

36. The Lepers Bill was amended to a considerable extent by the House, and was returned to that Chamber by the Legislative Council with further amendments—apparently not acceptable to the House—which did not proceed with the measure. A Bill dealing with this important subject will again be brought before the Legislature.

37. A Bill improving the mode of assessment and collection of the House Property Tax, having also the object of providing a Water Fund as well as the existing Lighting Fund, was thrown out. This Bill was introduced by a private member, and was in a form which the Government would have been prepared to accept.

* One of these was a schooner of 320 tons.

38. Unfortunately, also, a Bill to amend the Jury Act did not find favour.

39. The Bill, which was not proceeded with at the session of 1911, for abolishing one of the two stipendiary and circuit magistrates, and consequently rearranging certain offices, came up again for consideration, but was not passed into law, pending, it is understood, the preparation of a scheme for bringing the Registries of the Supreme Court and of the Record Office under one roof, which involves certain other questions affecting office accommodation, and necessitates expenditure thereon.

40. A very useful Bill to permit of Commissioners remaining for five years instead of three in any one district was thrown out. In the opinion of the Government three years is not a sufficiently long time to enable a Commissioner to get a grasp of his district, and the expenditure involved in these frequent transfers is wasteful.

41. The desirability of initiating legislation on modern lines with regard to wrecks was again pressed upon the House, which, however, declined to pass a favourable resolution.

42. The House passed a resolution recommending that tenders be invited for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour at Nassau, &c., and agreeing to the raising of a loan of £100,000 should a suitable tender be received. (*See* paragraphs 95 to 99.)

43. The House have also appropriated out of the Cable Repair Fund a sum of £2,000 to enable, if possible, a wireless station to be established at Nassau capable of operation within a radius of 400 miles. (*See* paragraphs 83 to 84.)

44. Extracts from the Report of the Honorary Secretary of the Bar Association on the most important of the measures are appended:—

2 & 3 Geo. V.

Chapter 5.—*Probate Bonds.*

The Probate Amendment Act, 1912, relieves the Imperial Public Trustee from the giving of bonds in Probate matters, but he is subject to the same liabilities and duties and must pay all fees of Court and stamp duties as if he had given the Bond.

Chapter 8.—*Cinematograph Exhibition.*

By the Cinematograph Act, 1912, no exhibition of pictures can be given without a licence. The power to issue licences is given to the Commandant of Police, who may, by himself or his deputy, visit any premises in which an exhibition is about to be given in order to see if the law is being complied with. No obscene pictures, &c., are to be exhibited, and the Governor in Council is empowered to make rules. The Act does not apply to private exhibitions, and there is a penalty clause.

Chapter 10.—*The Oaths Act.*

The Oaths Act, 1912, consolidates and amends previous Acts and provides additional forms of oaths.

Chapter 12.—*Supreme Court.*

The Supreme Court Amendment Act, 1912, provides that an appeal shall lie to the King in Council in a civil action subject to such restrictions, &c., as may be prescribed by His Majesty in Council, but the value of the property in dispute, &c., must be of the value of £300. (The previous amount was £500.) Where the amount is less than £300 the leave of the Court must be obtained.

ronicus publishing company inc

Chapter 15.—*Manufactories.*

The Manufactories Encouragement Amendment Act, 1912, empowers the Governor in Council to permit any agricultural or marine product to be manufactured in an "agricultural factory" whether the same is an agricultural product of the Colony or not.

45. The Legislature was convened in the autumn and is still sitting.

46. Among the measures to be submitted to it are Bills dealing with the following important subjects:—Pilotage, the Public Health (including provision for controlling lepers), Liquor Licensing, Registration of Births and Deaths, Acquisition of Lands, Hotel and Manufactories Encouragement, and the Sale of Opium.

IV.—EDUCATION.

47. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools:—

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1909...	45	7,091	6,067	4,786	16	1,330	1,285	834	61	8,421	7,352	5,620
1910...	46	7,566	6,407	5,113	18	1,550	1,420	906	64	9,116	7,827	6,019
1911...	48	7,773	6,584	5,351	19	1,674	1,492	996	67	9,447	8,076	6,347
1912...	48	7,718	6,455	5,203	16	1,409	1,290	870	64	9,127	7,745	6,073

48. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education was as follows:—

—	1910	1911.	1912.
Principal teachers	47	50	48
Assistant teachers	13	13	11
Pupil teachers...	7	7	6
Monitors	153	159	166
Sewing teachers	11	11	13
Industrial teacher	1	1	0
Students in training	4	4	4
Employed in aided schools	23	23	16
Total	259	268	264

49. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

—	1909.			1910.			1911.			1912.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board schools ...	3,161	2,906	4,786	3,400	3,007	6,407	3,417	3,167	6,584	3,487	3,018	6,455
Aided private schools.	677	610	1,285	736	684	1,420	779	713	1,492	650	640	1,290
Church of England.	786	901	1,657	853	995	1,848	750	875	1,625	677	855	1,532
Roman Catholic	240	326	566	203	299	502	220	311	531	225	334	559
Private schools	148	199	347	110	180	290	87	135	222	133	137	270
Wesleyan schools	41	43	84	16	37	53	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5,143	5,062	10,205	5,318	5,202	10,520	5,253	5,201	10,454	5,217	5,086	10,303

50. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board, there were 33 maintained by the Church of England, six of which were in New Providence. Average roll 1,532, and average attendance 960.

51. There were also five Roman Catholic schools, total roll 559, and 14 private schools, roll 270.

52. By an Act passed in 1908, the annual vote to the Board of Education was raised to £6,000, and the school age from 13 to 14 years.

53. There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education.

54. Private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instructions as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School ...	60	53	113
Nassau Grammar School	14	—	14
St. Francis Xavier's Academy	9	36	45
Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera)	9	9	18
Wilson City (Abaco)...	3	4	7
Total	95	102	197

55. It is matter for serious consideration whether the primary education given in the Board Schools should not be restricted to the three R's., and more attention paid to industrial, agricultural, and technical instruction; but it is difficult to see how much can be done in this direction in view of the limited grant, the large number of teachers—mostly poorly paid—to be provided, and the widely-scattered nature of the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

56. The Bahamas General Hospital, formerly known as the New Providence Asylum and now as "The Hospital," was established in 1809 as a poor-house and hospital for the poor and infirm of the island. Since then the institution has grown steadily, and its functions have been extended in many directions. In 1845 it was placed under a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and now comprises the hospital proper, the infirmary, dispensary, the lunatic asylum, and the leper compound.

57. The number of inmates on 1st January, 1912, was:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	25	21	46
Victoria Infirmary	21	16	37
Lunatic Asylum	19	15	34
Leper Asylum	3	1	4
Total	68	53	121

Four hundred and eighty-three patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 609, of whom 220 were discharged recovered, 92 relieved, 71 discharged not improved, and 125 died.

58. At the close of the year 101 remained, distributed as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital	21	13	34
Victoria Infirmary	16	14	30
Lunatic Asylum	20	14	34
Leper Asylum...	3	—	3
Total	60	41	101

The Colonial Surgeon visited 318 cases at their homes on certificate from the Relieving Officer.

59. It is probable that the accommodation for lepers will, in the near future, have to be enlarged and improved, in view of the compulsory segregation of lepers, which is under consideration.

60. The institution also maintains a Cottage Hospital at Inagua, the cost of which in 1912-13, exclusive of the salary of the Medical Officer and of outdoor relief, was £334.

Savings Bank.

61. The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 30th June, 1912 (the end of the Savings Bank year), was 2,180; on 30th June, 1911, 2,108.

62. The deposits and withdrawals were as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1909	3,811	9,778	3,098	13,463
1910	2,946	6,878	2,632	8,921
1911	2,788	6,973	2,357	9,325
1912	3,038	7,511	1,985	7,409

This shows an increase in the number and amount of deposits as compared with last year, and in the withdrawals a decrease.

63. The balance due to depositors on 30th June, 1912, was £26,194, as against £25,498 in 1911.

64. During the year 1910, branches of the bank were established in all the out-islands, having previously been in operation in only three or four of them. But the transactions so far have been small, as the people seem to prefer dealing direct with the office at Nassau. In 1911-12 there were 782 deposits, amounting to £731, and 72 withdrawals, amounting to £228, at 13 offices out of 21.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

65. The strength of the force on 1st January, 1913, was 83. Seventeen men were discharged and 19 were enlisted during 1912.

66. Under an Act of 1911 a number of men are permitted to extend their service beyond 21 years, which will undoubtedly tend to the efficiency of the force, besides reducing its cost. Ten men were re-engaged after 21 years' service in 1912.

Prisons.

67. The number of persons committed to the Nassau Prison was 245, as against 198 in 1911. Of these, 167 were men, 63 women, and 15 juveniles. The daily average number in prison was 70·88 as against 61·82 in the previous year. The large increase was due to the conviction of 59 persons charged with larceny from a stranded steamship.

68. One hundred and forty-four punishments were inflicted, against 226 in 1911, but they were not serious, and flogging was not resorted to.

69. Tailoring, carpentering, bread-making, and the making of concrete poles for the electrical and telephonic services are carried on in the prison.

The question of providing a separate building for the confinement of juveniles is under consideration.

Criminal Statistics.

70. Comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years:—

—	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
The number of persons brought before the magistrates.	2,725	2,799	2,522	2,726
The number of summary convictions:—				
1. Offences against property with violence to the person.	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against property	117	156	175	138
3. Other offences against the person	241	222	268	291
4. Other offences	1,475	1,701	1,475	1,603
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts:—				
1. Homicide	1	1	1	—
2. Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide.	—	—	—	—
3. Other offences against property	11	17	3	—
4. Other offences against the person	2	4	6	2
5. Other offences	6	3	13	72
The number of persons acquitted:—				
1. In the Inferior Courts	493	438	422	354
2. In the Superior Courts	6	5	11	5

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

71. The births in 1912 numbered 1,824, as against 1,905 in 1911. The deaths were 1,498, as against 1,215 in 1911.

Birth rate 32·6 per 1,000.
Death rate 26·7 per 1,000.

72. No death certificates are required.

73. The estimated population on the 1st January, 1912, was 56,072

Births, 31st December, 1912	1,824	
Deaths, 31st December, 1912	1,498	
Add excess of births		326
		56,398
Deduct excess of emigrants over immigrants:—		
1st January–31st December, 1912 ...		80
Estimated population 1st January, 1913 ...		56,318

74. The general health of the Colony was good, except for a few sporadic cases of typhoid fever; but recently there has been a mild, though widespread, epidemic of measles, which has now entirely abated.

Meteorological Statistics.

75. The following are the meteorological data for the past six years:—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of.		Extremes of.		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
1907...	77·9	79·7	78·8	82·4	71·5	91·5	62·0	39·39
1908...	77·6	79·8	78·6	82·6	71·7	93·0	57·0	69·05*
1909...	76·5	79·5	78·0	81·5	71·7	90·0	54·5	43·48
1910...	76·4	79·4	77·0	80·9	71·3	90·5	58·5	25·71
1911...	77·5	80·1	78·8	81·7	72·1	90·0	61·0	40·15
1912...	79·2	80·6	79·5	83·0	72·9	91·5	57·0	36·79
Average for six years.	77·5	79·7	78·4	82·0	71·8	91·1	58·3	42·63

* Hurricane year.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

76. The postal revenue for 1912-13 was £7,369, as compared with £3,952 the previous year. The expenditure was £706, as against £648, not including the annual foreign and inter-insular mail services, amounting to some £10,000 a year.

Sales of stamps realized £3,825, as against £2,832 in 1911-12.

77. The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 824,286, or 33,053 more than in the previous year. Details are subjoined:—

—	Received.				Despatched.			
	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Decrease.	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Decrease.
Letters, Foreign ...	275,022	284,719	9,697	—	176,440	182,208	5,768	—
Postcards „ ...	12,691	11,705	—	986	27,392	27,040	—	352
Letters, Interinsular ...	66,786	68,182	1,396	—	82,359	84,390	2,036	—
Postcards „ ...	693	700	7	—	3,178	2,253	—	925
News and Books, For...	99,880	118,503	18,623	—	14,041	14,669	628	—
News and Books, Inter.	1,444	1,072	—	372	31,307	28,845	—	2,462

78. The parcel post figures were as follows:—

	Number.	Value. £
From United Kingdom	3,029	4,424
,, United States	5,053	3,122
,, Canada	97	88
To United Kingdom	568	827
,, United States	541	195
,, Canada	2	1
Total	9,290	£8,657

In 1911-12 the figures were:—

	Number.	Value. £
From United Kingdom	2,742	3,711
,, United States	3,946	2,806

79. Money orders were issued and paid as follows:—

Countries.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
United Kingdom	796	1,678	163	920
United States	1,897	3,707	592	1,556
Canada	45	78	59	95
Total	2,738	5,463	814	2,571

In 1911-12 the totals were:—
Issued, 2,539; value, £4,738. Paid, 730; value, £1,995.

80. 1,565 British postal orders, value £611, were issued, and 758, value £432, drawn.

Telegraph.

81. The revenue of the Telegraph Department was £1,771, and the expenditure £745.

82. 4,159 messages passed over the cable between Nassau and Jupiter (Florida), of which 358 were to and from Great Britain. The total number in 1911 was 3,604.

83. The 20 years' contract with the Henley Telegraph Company has expired; the cable to Florida has become the absolute property of the Colonial Government, and the accumulated Repair Fund has, in accordance with the terms of the contract, been divided between the contractors and the Colony, leaving the latter in possession of a sum of over £4,000. Of this the Legislature recently allocated £2,000 to enable the Government to establish a wireless station in Nassau.

84. A contract has been entered into with the Anglo-French Wireless Company, Limited, to establish a Radio-Telegraph Station for the sum of £1,875, and the installation, it is anticipated, will be completed about July, 1913.

TELEPHONES.

85. Many telephone stations are now working in Nassau and suburbs. The revenue for the year was £1,127, and the expenditure, including interest on loan, £907.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

FOREIGN LABOUR.

86. The following table summarizes the foreign labour traffic for five years:—

	Number of steam vessels outwards bound.	Number of labourers engaged		Number of steam vessels entered homeward bound.	Number of labourers brought back after expiration of engagement	
		To work on board ships (Stevedores).	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c.		From work on board ships (Stevedores).	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c.
Inagua:						
1908 ...	55	1,867	—	54	1,720	314
1909 ...	58	1,969	121	60	1,997	79
1910 ...	80	2,740	195	75	2,572	—
1911 ...	87	3,091	75	83	2,988	170
1912 ...	64	2,550	—	64	2,508	68
Long Cay:						
1908 ...	59	1,803	—	63	1,740	290
1909 ...	51	1,674	—	51	1,604	—
1910 ...	42	1,250	—	42	1,113	—
1911 ...	31	936	367	31	936	—
1912 ...	41	1,476	—	48	1,448	256

87. The Commissioner at Inagua reports that:—

Labourers on steam vessels are required to perform any work they may be called upon to do. Pay of foreman $1 a day, ordinary labourer 50 cents a day, and on Sundays double pay; overtime ten cents an hour. 68 men were employed during the year by the C. C. Mengel Company, Belize, principally in laying railway and loading cars. The steamers on which the men were taken were those of the Hamburg American Line, Atlas Line, and the George D. Emery Company.

88. The Commissioner at Long Cay writes as follows:—

The labourers engaged for stevedore labour on steamships are employed by the Hamburg American Line at 50 cents per day and 10 cents per hour overtime. The average is about £2 10*s.* for 17 days—$15 per month. Contract men returned were from Panama Rail Road Co.

Tourists.

89. As a winter health and pleasure resort Nassau, as usual, attracted a large number of Canadian and American visitors, and

the hotels and boarding houses were all fairly full. The season of 1913 was, however, affected by the disorganisation of the steam service between Miami and Nassau, causing a decrease in the number of tourists.

90. The Colony is not, however, sufficiently advertised. The Legislature voted £200 for advertising in Canada, but to be of any use a larger vote should be made annually, so as to advertise as well in the United States. A certain amount of advertising is, of course, done by the steamship lines and the American Hotel; but the attractions of Nassau are not nearly so well known in the United States as are those of Bermuda, where there is considerable competition between steamship lines and hotels.

91. The contract with the Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company, which provides for regular communication with Florida during the winter months, and for the maintenance of a large hotel, expires at the end of 1913. Under this contract the Colony pays £5,000 a year, and, in view of a possible demand for an increase of this subsidy, it is a matter for regret that local capitalists have not, ere now, embarked on some scheme for the provision of another large hotel with a moderate tariff.

92. The contract with the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company for communication direct with New York also expires at the end of 1913.

Relations with Canada.

93. The steamers of the Elder Dempster Line, which have been calling once at Nassau on their way from Halifax to Cuba and Mexico, will cease calling at this port early in 1913. It is unfortunate that this service will be discontinued, and it is hoped that it will not be long before the Canadian Government will see its way to again organise the service.

Toronto Exhibition.

94. The Bahamas were very successfully represented, at comparatively small expenditure, at the Toronto Exhibition of August-September, 1911.

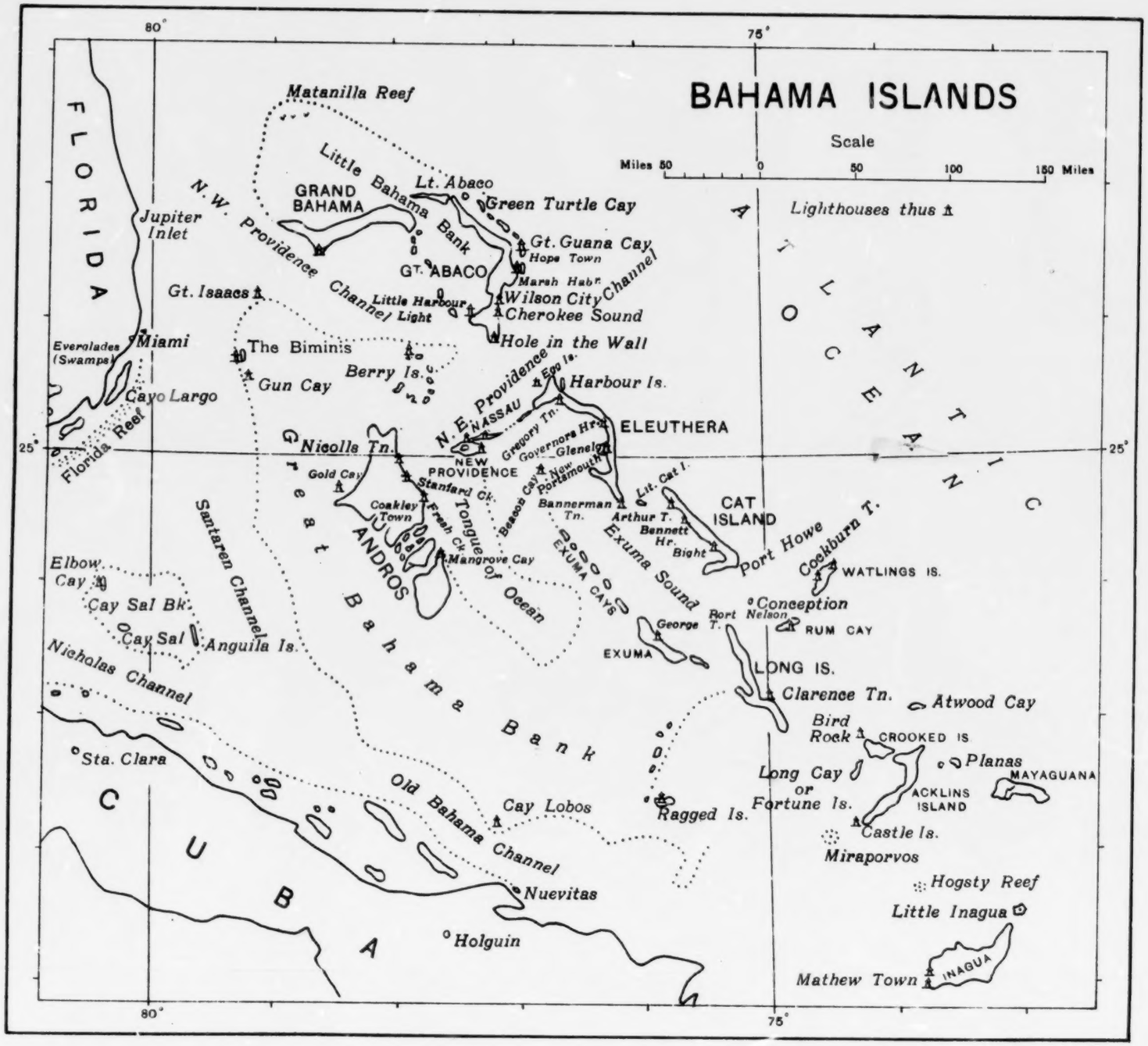
It was not found possible to take part again in the Exhibition in 1912, but it is anticipated that the subject will again be brought up in the present session of the Legislature.

Dredging Nassau Harbour.

95. This important question has been under consideration for a great number of years, but beyond the accumulation of reports and minutes nothing has been done.

96. But in the session of 1911 the House adopted a Report recommending that tenders be invited from three responsible firms for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour, and providing that, in case the Colony should not be able to enter into a contract for the work, each of the three firms tendering should be allowed the sum of £200 to defray the expenses of the expert report, but that, in the event of the Colony making a contract, no expenses should be allowed.

97. It was not, of course, possible to call for tenders on such indefinite terms, and the Governor, in a message of the 13th March, 1912, furnished the House with certain facts and figures



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1913.

showing the estimated number of cubic yards of rock and sand to be removed in order to cut a channel through the bar, having a minimum depth of 30 feet, and to make a basin in the harbour of similar depth.

98. Thereupon the House adopted a Report of a Select Committee recommending that tenders be invited for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour, and also for blowing up the reef at the entrance to Cochrane's Anchorage, and recommending, further, that the House should agree to the raising of a loan of £100,000 should a suitable tender be submitted.

99. Negotiations were entered into on the lines of this proposal and tenders invited from firms in America and through the Crown Agents in London. The result was not satisfactory. Mr. A. B. Bowers, who was associated with Mr. H. T. Trumbo in the investigation made by them in 1904, came to Nassau and made an examination and took borings, but his report was too vague, and it was not found possible to come to any definite conclusion. A message was sent to the House by the Acting Governor submitting the correspondence on the subject, which included a proposal by Messrs. Coode, Matthews, Fitzmaurice and Wilson to send out an experienced engineer at the expense of the Colony who would investigate on the spot and would then be in a position to enable them to report:—

(*a*) On the best scheme which could be carried out for £100,000.

(*b*) The cost of carrying out such a scheme as would meet the requirements of the Colony.

The action to be taken is now under the consideration of a Select Committee of the House, which has not yet reported.

Liquor Licences.

100. The following is a statement of liquor licences issued in the Colony, and revenue derived therefrom in 1911 and 1912.

Year.	General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount Received.
					£ s. d.
1911	71	21	3	—	1,155 0 0
1912	74	17	2	—	1,100 0 0

(General, hotel, and special licences are retail licences.)

101. Governor Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G., left the Colony on the 24th May, and his successor Mr. George Basil Haddon-Smith, C.M.G., arrived on the 3rd December.

Mr. William Hart Bennett, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government in the interim.

102. A map of the Colony is appended.

T. E. D. Brace,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Nassau, Bahamas,
26th July, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
732	Nyasaland	1911–1912
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	"
750	Straits Settlements	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar	1912
756	St. Helena	"
757	Weihaiwei...	"
758	Ceylon	1911–1912
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	"
761	Somaliland	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong...	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

COLONIAL REPORTS ANNUAL.

No. 809.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1913–14.

(For Report for 1912–13, see No. 766.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1914.

LONDON:
PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By BARCLAY AND FRY, LIMITED, THE GROVE, SOUTHWARK, S.E.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, 29, BREAMS BUILDINGS, FETTER LANE, E.C.
and 28, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH),
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America, the Continent of Europe and Abroad of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LONDON W.C.

1914.

Cd. 7622] *Price* 2½*d.*

CONTENTS.

		Page.
I.	Financial	4
II.	Trade, Agriculture, and Industries	6
III.	Legislation	13
IV.	Education	16
V.	Government Institutions	18
VI.	Judicial Statistics	20
VII.	Vital Statistics	21
VIII.	Postal and Telegraph	22
IX.	General Observations	24
	Sketch Map.	

No. 809.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1912–13, see No. 766.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bahamas,
20th August, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the Blue Book Report for the year 1913-14.

I have, &c.,

G. B. HADDON-SMITH,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C70) Wt.36076/850 1125 & 90. 10.14. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.12/2.

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1914.

1. In submitting this Report, I should explain that, although the figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1914 (the financial year of the Colony), the trade and customs statistics are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1913, while other information is, as far as possible, brought up to the date of the Report (13th August, 1914).

I.—FINANCIAL.

2. The revenue was £100,753, as compared with £97,574 in 1912-13, an increase of £3,179, or more by £23,355 than the annual average of the preceding five years.

3. The following are the comparative details :—

Heads of Revenue.	1912-13.	1913-14.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	78,428	83,928	5,500	—
2. Port Dues	320	373	53	—
3. Licences and Internal Revenue	3,606	2,737	—	869
4. Fees and Reimbursements	2,730	2,482	—	248
5. Post and Telegraph ..	8,703	5,574	—	3,129
6. Rents	78	32	—	46
7. Widows' and Orphans' Pensions	27	8	—	19
8. Miscellaneous	66	66	—	—
9. Interest	56	3,176	3,120	—
10. Electrical Department ..	3,560	2,377	—	1,183
Totals .. £	97,574	100,753	8,673	5,494

Net Increase £3,179.

4. The large increase under interest is mainly due to payments under the Electric Light Act.

5. The following statement gives the customs revenue for five years :—

CUSTOMS REVENUE.

Year.	*Amount.*	
	£	
1909–10	64,023	20% tariff.
1910–11	69,334	20% tariff.
1911–12	71,563	25% tariff.
1912–13	78,428	25% tariff.
1913–14	83,928	25% tariff.

6. The expenditure was £96,495, as against £86,077 in 1912-13—the figure £88,077 in the last Annual Report included £2,000 surplus funds invested—being an increase of £10,418, or £6,780 more than the annual average of the preceding five years.

7. The increase in expenditure was due mainly to more public works, a subsidy to the reconstituted Agricultural Board, the operation of the Acts relating to electric light and telephones and the installation of a wireless system.

8. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Excess of Revenue* (+) *or Expenditure* (—).
	£	£	£
1909–10	77,578	92,858	—15,280
1910–11	84,386	85,315	—929
1911–12	85,592	82,676	+2,916
1912–13	97,574	88,077	+9,497
1913–14	100,753	96,496	+4,257
Average	£89,176	89,084	

Thus during the total five years the revenue and expenditure have been almost exactly the same.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The following table shows the excess of assets over liabilities for the past two years :—

	£
On 31st March, 1913	30,048
On 31st March, 1914	51,915

Debt.

10. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent., was originally £113,126, and now stands at £42,829.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580.

The existing debt should be wholly liquidated in 1926.

Banks.

11. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid-up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to £74,066, was established in 1888 and now does business under the Banks Act of 1909. It issues local notes, fully secured, of the values of £1 and four shillings.

The Royal Bank of Canada also has a branch in Nassau established in 1908, with deposits in the Colony amounting to £82,206.

Currency.

12. The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold. United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted, if of $5 and upwards, at the same rate as United States gold ; if below $5, at the rate of four shillings to the dollar.

Estimates for 1914-15.*

13. The estimate of revenue for 1914-15 as presented by the Government to the House of Assembly amounted to £95,976 and was, of course, based on the then existing rates of customs duty. The estimate of expenditure, including "fixed charges" and the amount required to be voted in the Appropriation Act, was £95,833.

14. Before proceeding to consider these estimates, the House decided to lower the tariff on *ad valorem* goods from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent., the effect of which would have been to decrease the revenue by some £6,000, but, at the same time, duties were increased as follows :—On ale, &c., from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence, on brandy from 10 shillings to 14 shillings, on gin from six shillings to eight shillings, on rum from four shillings and sixpence to five shillings and sixpence, on whiskey from six shillings to eight shillings, and on wines from 25 per cent. to 33⅓ per cent. a gallon, while the existing surtax of 10 per cent. of the duty on those articles was maintained. The effect of this will be to reduce the estimated revenue to £93,781.

15. The Appropriation Act as passed totals £44,434, but from this must be deducted a sum of £2,376 already actually paid last financial year, leaving £42,058. Adding the "Fixed Charges" as originally presented to the House, we get a total of £104,683. But, in addition to this, the operation of certain Acts passed during the session of 1914 will involve a further expenditure estimated at £8,760, giving a grand total of £113,451.

16. It is likely that the net result will be an expenditure of a sum in the neighbourhood of £20,000 over and above the estimated revenue for the year. This excess can be met out of surplus and other funds of the Colony, but it will swallow up more than three-fourths of the total reserve fund, leaving little margin should a hurricane or other unforeseen disaster occur.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

17. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1913, were valued at £403,529 (including £5,285 specie), as against £358,111 (including £303 specie) in 1912.

---

* Since writing the above, war has broken out between England and Germany, and the result may be that these estimates will be entirely falsified. The revenue is bound to go down, and although the expenditure will also go down by reason of the probable postponement of certain public works, it is impossible to say what the drain on the public resources will be should it become necessary to provide food-stuffs for the people.

18. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the imports were :—

Headings.	*America.*		*England.*		*Other Countries.*		*Total.*	
	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913,
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals Food, Drink & Narcotics	138,059	148,763	36,944	37,245	22,145	20,616	197,148	206,624
2. Raw Materials	10,767	11,315	—	—	554	990	11,321	12,305
3. Manufactured Materials.								
Textiles ..	28,582	42,250	32,542	34,816	1,811	557	62,935	77,623
Metal ..	28,776	42,729	5,279	8,390	197	1,149	34,252	52,268
Other ..	41,367	41,265	9,417	7,643	1,368	516	52,152	49,424
4. Specie ..	—	2,255	303	3,030	—	—	303	5,285
Total .. £	247,551	288,577	84,485	91,124	26,075	23,828	358,111	403,529

19. The following table summarizes whence they came.

Country.	*Value.* 1912.	1913.
	£	£
United States of America	247,551	288,577
United Kingdom	84,485	91,124
Canada	12,714	6,777
British West Indies	7,067	5,555
Foreign countries other than America ..	6,294	11,496
Total ..	£358,111	£403,529

But these figures are not entirely reliable, inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in this Colony. It is possible, for instance, that certain goods from Canada appear under the heading of America, where they are transhipped.

20. The increase of over £10,000 in value of live animals, food, drink and narcotics is due to higher prices of foodstuffs abroad and decreased local production on account of the continued emigration of the working classes to Florida.

21. With regard to the increase of nearly £30,000 in the value of manufactured goods, large quantities of cotton, linen, woollen, and fancy goods, and furniture and building materials were imported. At nearly all settlements in the Colony better built and better furnished houses are to be seen.

Exports.

22. The exports were valued at £263,954, as against £276,115 in 1912

23. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the exports were :—

Heading.	*Value.* 1912. £	1913. £
1. Live Animals, Food, Drink, & Narcotics	7,364	11,061
2. Raw Materials	264,758	247,848
3. Manufactured Materials	3,963	5,045
4. Specie	30	—
Total ..	£276,115	£263,954

24. Produce was exported to the following countries :—

Country.	*Value.* 1912. £	1913. £
United States of America	135,669	124,488
United Kingdom	55,320	37,738
Canada	1,337	1,861
British West Indies	70	502
Foreign countries other than America ..	83,719	99,365
Total ...	£276,115	£263,954

25. A comparative table of the imports and exports for the past five years is subjoined, excluding specie :—

Year.	*Imports.* £	*Exports.* £	*Totals.* £
1909	342,758	168,692	511,450
1910	329,014	190,682	519,696
1911	308,726	209,251	517,977
1912	357,808	276,115	633,923
1913	398,244	263,954	662,198
Totals ..	£1,736,550	1,108,694	2,845,244
Average of 5 years ..	£347,310	221,739	569,049

American Tariff.

26. The new American tariff should be productive of great benefit to the Colony, inasmuch as it reduces the rate of duty on our main products as follows :—

(1) Sponge reduced from 20 per cent. *ad valorem* to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

(2) Salt reduced from 11 cents per 100 lbs. to free list.
(3) Pineapples in barrels per cubic foot from 8 cents to 6 cents.
(4) Pineapples in bulk from $8 to $5 per 1,000.
(5) Pineapples preserved from 1 cent per lb. and 35 per cent. *ad valorem* to 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.
(6) Citrus fruit from 1 cent to ½ cent per lb.
(7) Lumber is on free list.

Agriculture, Fruit Culture, &c.

27. An Act was passed in 1913 re-establishing an Agricultural Board with a subsidy of £750 per annum for four years to carry on experiments with a view to the agricultural development of the Colony.

28. The methods adopted by the Board are on the lines of parental encouragement of the peasant farmer. Some small quantities of seeds have been distributed to those unable to purchase and some tracts of Sea Island cotton have been started. A proposal has been made to import an expert cotton-planter to demonstrate to the farmers on the field, modern methods of planting, fertilizing and reaping.

A Southdown ram has been imported and ewes purchased for breeding stock for sale.

A produce exchange or warehouse for the receiving of out-island produce has been opened with a view to finding a market either locally or by export.

29. *Sisal.* Exports in 1912, 8,067,485 lbs., value £66,427; exports in 1913, 7,249,496 lbs., value £69,950; entirely to the United States of America.

30. *Grape Fruit.* 565,322 fruit were exported, valued at £2,032, as against 200,280, valued at £563, in 1913-1914.

31. *Oranges.* The export was 622,257, valued at £599, as compared with 121,180, valued at £172, the preceding year. In 1907 the export was over a million and a half fruit, valued at £3,000.

32. *Coconuts.* 46,500 nuts, valued at £127, were exported, as against 16,347, valued at £52, in 1913-14.

33. All the above articles of production are likely in the near future to receive stimulus by the attraction of foreign capital and by the effect of the proposed operations of the Development Board (referred to in more detail under the heads of Legislation, paragraph 47, and General Observations, paragraph 103).

Manufactories.

34. *Pineapple canning factories.* The export of tinned pineapples was, during the last five years:—

	£
In 1909, 46,639 cases, valued at	8,999
In 1910, 43,041 ,, ,,	9,219
In 1911, 29,532 ,, ,,	5,970
In 1912, 27,536 ,, ,,	5,175
In 1913, 31,192 ,, ,,	6,208

There is one factory at Nassau, operated by an American company.

The local supply of fruit not having been equal to the demand, the company in 1913 imported from Cuba 12,345 cases, equal to 31,862 dozen, for canning purposes.

35. *Lumber Mills.* The Bahamas Timber Company—an American concern—at Abaco milled 12,000,000 feet of pine, of which over 6,000,000 feet went to Cuba. 2,000 tons of ice were also manufactured.

This mill affords much employment to both local and American workmen, about 45 skilled and 375 unskilled workmen having been employed daily, with wages bill of some £6,200 and £15,000, respectively, per annum.

The Company is in process of reconstruction and extensive developments are contemplated.

Sponge and other Marine Products.

36. Extracts from the Report of the Marine Products Board for the year 1913 are appended :—

"The sales for the year on the Exchange in Nassau amounted to £99,343, and though the quantity sold did not equal that of the previous year, yet the sales show an increase of £3,604 over the returns for 1912.

"The following table has been prepared shewing the sales of sponge on the Nassau Exchange for the last five years, in which it will be noted that there has been, with but one exception, a steady improvement during that period :—

Sales for 1909	£69,685
Sales for 1910	£83,289
Sales for 1911	£71,703
Sales for 1912	£95,739
Sales for 1913	£99,343

"This return is for sales effected on the Exchange in the capital and does not include the purchases of sponge made by merchants trading at Andros and Acklins Island, where no official record is kept. Sponge to the value of at least £15,000 is sold at these islands annually, and this amount should be added to the figures above quoted in making up the total sales for any year.

"There is a continued shrinkage in the supply of wool sponge. This shortage has been referred to in other reports, but the Board is of the opinion that there has been no season in their history where the catch of wool was so little as in the one with which it now deals.

"Unfortunately, the Board is not in a position to give any reason for the decrease in the most valuable of our sponge species, but the suggestion is made that if the wool sponge from one section of our sponging grounds were transplanted to another, there might be an improvement in the growth, just as the yield of pine fields is improved by the introduction of foreign stock. But this and all other questions concerning the harvest of the sea ought to be submitted to scientific investigation, as there is no one in the Colony who has studied marine life scientifically.

"The growth of sponge by grafting has been occupying the attention of the Board for some time, but it was only a few months ago that they have committed themselves to an experiment in this industry. So far the Board is unable to report progress.

"It has also been suggested that it is quite possible to transplant Mediterranean sponge in our waters, as the marine conditions here are almost identical with those of our more famous rival. It is needless for the Board to dwell on the immense gain that would accrue to the Colony if such an enterprise could be successfully conducted, and the Board has no hesitation in recommending it to the favourable consideration of the Government.

"Before closing the report on sponge the Board considers it its duty to point out that the exorbitant demands of the crews and the prevalence of the practice of desertion, due to the easy means of escape offered by the many vessels plying between this port and Miami, gives the Board much concern for the future of the principal business of the Colony, for in spite of the steady demand and the good prices obtained for all classes of sponge there seems to be more and more difficulty in finding crews to man the vessels engaged in the trade.

RESERVES.

"The sponge beds in the Bight of Acklins were re-opened on the first of January.

"The Northern Bight of Andros will not be opened as the Commissioner's report was so unfavourable that the Board deemed it advisable to extend the closure for another year.

"The sponge beds known as the Westward or the Bahama Banks have been closed for fishing from the 1st day of October to the 30th day of June in the present year, it being the intention of the Board to keep this section closed for that period every year in future.

"However seriously the Board considers the shrinkage in wool sponge, it is much more impressed with the decline of the turtle fishery.

"The trade in both Hawksbill and Green Turtle can be said to be at a standstill. The few offerings of the former for the year were mainly from foreign sources, and the valuable Lantern-back and the Ragged Island and Cotton Cay Hawksbill have been but an insignificant fraction of the catch. Plainly, the turtle in our waters is fast becoming extinct, and energetic measures are necessary to preserve the species to our trade.

"As the Board has pointed out in former reports, a total closure would involve great expense and be but a doubtful benefit, but another remedy has been suggested which appears to be the most economical and effective that the Board has yet considered.

"The Bahama Islands have many creeks with narrow entrances that are rich grazing grounds for turtle; if these creeks were fenced with wire netting, stocked with turtle and protected from poachers, there is every reason to believe that the turtle would thrive and increase, as the creeks abound with food and are provided with sand bays on which the turtle could lay their eggs. Unable to escape, and protected from their natural enemies, the turtle ought to increase rapidly.

"The method is very different from that of placing the turtle in ponds. In the ponds the turtle cannot increase in number, as they have no bays to lay on and the eggs go to waste. The Board cannot consider the ponding of turtle other than as a waste of turtle life, as in a pond the creature loses its power of reproduction.

"At present the young turtle is preyed on by sharks and other predatory fish, eaten by seabirds, and recklessly destroyed by fishermen. An idea of the loss of turtle life can be gained from the fact that a turtle lays from 300-400 eggs in the laying season. Indeed, were it not for the extreme fecundity of the species they would have long ago ceased to exist.

"As before stated the Board cannot undertake to move in any of these matters, as at present their engagements exceed their income, and they are carrying on their present work on the economy of past years."

37. A resident of Abaco has experimented with the bêche de mer, or sea slug, which is used as an article of diet by the Chinese, and has shipped a sample case to China. Quantities were shipped many years ago to Key West, Florida.

38. An article has recently appeared in the "Canada West-India Magazine" advocating the introduction of the pearl oyster into the Bahamas. The subject is now engaging the attention of the Marine Products Board.

Lands and Forests.

39. No Crown land was sold during 1913. Approximately 365,431 acres have been sold and 2,434,730 acres remain ungranted.

40. A very large number of holdings remain unsurveyed for want of staff, and it is not the policy of the Government to sell any more Crown lands except for building or other special purpose until arrangements can be made for surveying the same. The Government is, however, prepared to grant leases on reasonable terms.

41. As regards concessions for cutting pine timber and extracting rosin and turpentine from trees on Crown land, the Secretary of State has recently approved the terms on which such concessions may be made, and they can be obtained on application to the Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.

42. There is an area of about seven square miles in New Providence on which pine trees grow, and about twenty-one square miles at Cocoa Plum Creek, Abaco. The other pine bearing land on Abaco, as well as the right to cut timber on Andros and Grand Bahama, has been conceded for a lengthy term to an American Company—the Bahamas Timber Company, Limited.

43. Shipping.

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons
British ..	136	13,056	133	13,118	63	45,708	64	46,577
American ..	6	1,531	6	1,531	94	226,616	93	222,984
Haytian ..	18	223	18	223	—	—	—	—
Russian ..	1	384	1	384	—	—	—	—
Cuban ..	—	—	—	—	3	2,464	2	2,372
German ..	—	—	—	—	154	531,910	154	531,910
Norwegian ..	—	—	—	—	2	1,725	2	1,725
Danish ..	—	—	—	—	1	1,669	1	1,669
Totals ..	161	15,194	158	15,256	317	810,092	316	807,237
Totals 1912	169	17,870	169	18,609	279	605,659	280	605,706

The increased tonnage is almost entirely due to the fact that more steamers of the Hamburg-American Line called at Inagua and Long Cay for the purpose of engaging stevedore labourers.

44. The number and total tonnage of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years was 9 and 133 tons in 1909; 9 and 336 tons in 1910; 10 and 179 tons in 1911; 2 and 22 tons in 1912; and 10 and 440 tons in 1913.

III.—LEGISLATION.

SESSION OF 1912-13.

45. The Session of 1912-13 was the longest on record, lasting nearly eight months.

46. I am indebted to the Honourable Harcourt Malcolm, K.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Honorary Secretary of the Bahamas Branch of the Society of Comparative Legislation, for the following resumé* of the more important of the Acts passed :—

"CHAPTER 3—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

"The Births and Deaths Registration Act 1913 is the first Act dealing comprehensively with the question which has been passed by the Legislature since 1850.

"The Governor is given power to divide the Colony into districts and appoint a Registrar General and other Registrars. The Registrar of Records, so long as that office continues, is to be Registrar General, and Out-Island Commissioners are *ex officio* Registrars of their respective districts. For the first time in the history of the Colony an order for burial is made necessary ; but in consequence of the conditions obtaining on some of the Out Islands of the Colony the Governor by proclamation may exempt any district from this necessity."

Note by Colonial Secretary.

This Act has, however, not yet been brought into operation, difficulties having arisen as to the administrative measures necessary to give it practical effect.

"CHAPTER 4—PILOTS AND PILOTAGE.

"The Pilotage Act 1913 takes the place of nineteen Acts and parts of four other Acts which have been in the melting pot for some time.

"CHAPTER 6—TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

"The Telegraph Department Act 1913 creates one department to control the two—wire and wireless—systems of telegraphy and makes the operators interchangeable.

"CHAPTER 8—ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

"The Electrical Department Act 1913 amalgamates the Telephone Department created in 1906 and the Electric Light Department created in 1907 into one Department called the Electrical Department consisting of two divisions—electricity and telephones. The Superintendent and Clerk form the staff common to both divisions of the new Department; otherwise each division has a separate staff. The control of this composite department is taken away from the Governor in Council and given to a Board of seven members selected by the Governor on popular lines.

"For the purposes of the supply of electricity a loan of £20,000 is made from the Treasury to the Board, who immediately repay to the Treasury, with interest at 3 per cent., all sums heretofore advanced under the repealed Electric Light Act 1907. This loan carries interest at the rate of three pounds per centum per annum and is to be paid off in not less than 30 years. Power is given to the Governor in Council, at the request of the Board, to invest any money standing to the credit of the Electric Light Fund. Similarly a loan of £800 is made to the Board from the Treasury in connection with the telephone system. The rate of interest, however, is two pounds and ten shillings per centum per annum, and this loan is to be repaid in not less than five years. Provision is made for punishing for any damage to any of the works in connection with either system. The

*This resumé has been curtailed.

principle of giving compensation for damage to private property in carrying out the purposes of the Act is incorporated in this Act, although it was not in previous Acts dealing with these subjects. The amount of this compensation is to be determined by arbitration and, in the event of the disagreement of the arbitrators, by the umpirage of the Chief Justice.

"CHAPTER 9—AUDIT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

"The Audit Act 1913 as originally introduced into the House was merely a consolidating measure, but the House referred it to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and this Committee inserted a section which is analogous to sections 21 and 32 of The Imperial Audit and Exchequer Act 1866 and which brings the Auditor more closely under the supervision of the House.

"CHAPTER 11—AGRICULTURE.

"The Board of Agriculture Act 1913 provides £750 a year for four years for carrying on experiments with a view to the agricultural development of the Colony. It is proposed to work along lines broader than, and differing radically from, those followed in making previous attempts, which unhappily resulted in failure. The maximum number of the Board is fixed at nine, of whom at least two must be members of the House of Assembly. The maintenance of a Botanical Station is left in the discretion of the Board. The employment of expert assistance is also discretionary with the Board, but is subject to the approval of the Governor.

"CHAPTER 13—HOTEL AND STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

"The Hotel and Steamship Service Act 1913 gives a general authority to the Governor in Council to enter into a contract for a steamship service with Florida and for hotel accommodation in Nassau for the period of five years at an annual subsidy not exceeding five thousand pounds. As in previous Hotel Acts there is exemption from certain import duties of customs and tonnage, light and other port dues, including pilotage.

"CHAPTER 18—CRIMINAL LAW (FEMALES AND CHILDREN).

"The Criminal Law Amendment Act 1913 consolidates four Acts and parts of another dealing with offences against women and children, and includes some of the provisions of the Imperial Act, 4 Ed. VII, c. 15, relating to the prevention of cruelty to children.

"CHAPTER 19—LEPERS.

"The Lepers Act 1913 makes an attempt to provide for the isolation and segregation of lepers as effectively as possible with a minimum expense to the Colony, and without imposing any unduly stringent conditions upon them. Provision is made for their isolation under proper conditions either in private houses or in the Leper Asylum, which is defined as any part of the Bahamas General Hospital, and restrictions are imposed on the landing of alien lepers in the Colony. No person can be treated as a leper without examination by two medical men. The administration of this Act is vested partly in the Board of Health and partly in the Hospital Commissioners. Power is also given to make rules for carrying out the Act in certain respects."

Note by Colonial Secretary.

This Act is not yet in practical force pending consideration of the important question of accommodation.

"CHAPTER 21—OPIUM CONVENTION.

"The Opium Act 1913 is designed to give effect to the measures decided upon in the International Opium Convention signed at the Hague on the 23rd day of January 1912, and to regulate the importation of opium, morphine, cocaine and similar drugs in the Colony. The Act is based on the draft Gold Coast Ordinance. The House passed the Bill in redemption of the pledge given by adopting the resolution reported by a Select Committee of the House.

"CHAPTER 22—POISONS AND DRUGS.

"The Pharmacy Act 1913 represents the result of the efforts which the Government has been making for several years to modernise our laws dealing with the sale of poisons and drugs. There had not been any legislation on the subject since 1875. The sale of medicines or drugs is restricted to properly licensed persons, who are divided into four classes. A licence remains in force as long as the annual fee of £5 is paid, and the licensee lives, and there is no cancellation. Provision is made for the creation of a Board for the examination of candidates and the issue of certificates of competency. Prescriptions must be numbered and filed by a licensee. If the owner of the prescription desires to retain the original prescription and it contains no dangerous substances or quantities a copy of it must be filed. Stringent regulations governing the sale of poisons are embodied in the Act."

SESSION OF 1914.

47. The following is a resumé* of the principal Acts of the Session which closed on 22nd June, 1914. This has also kindly been supplied by Mr. Malcolm:—

"CHAPTER 1. TARIFF.

"The Tariff Act, 1914, is important only in that it reduces the *ad valorem* import duty of customs from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. and by the omission of a number of articles from the Duty Free List makes them liable to duties of customs; and considerably increases the duty on spirits. The text of the Act is identical with that of the Act of 1908, the only novelty being the registration of articles exported from the Colony with a view to their being exempt from the payment of import duty upon their re-importation. The privilege of free importation accorded to the Inspector of Imperial Lighthouses is abolished, although preserved in the case of the present holder. Among duty free imports the wide definition of 'Passengers' baggage' should prevent any evasion of import duty by passengers, who are also allowed £20 worth of other goods duty free.

"CHAPTER 7. REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

"The Registrar-General's Act, 1914, aids in bringing into effect the much-debated scheme of abolishing one of the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrates and creating a general Registry of the records of the Colony by combining the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court with that of the Registrar of Records. The Registrar-General, whose salary is fixed at £400 a year, in addition to being head of this combined Department will also be under the obligation of acting as Magistrate in New Providence while the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate is on circuit. He also must perform a magisterial circuit of the Out-Islands once a year, and for the expenses of this circuit he is allowed £85.

"CHAPTER 12. PROSTITUTION.

"The Immoral Traffic Act, 1914, became necessary as it had been deemed desirable that the Colony should make a declaration of accession to the International Convention for the suppression of the White Slave Traffic, and this Act has been passed in order to fulfil the obligations incurred by that accession. This Act reproduces the provisions of the Imperial Acts, 2 Ed. VII., c. 11, and 2 and 3 Geo. V., c. 20.

* This resumé has been curtailed.

"CHAPTER 13. CRIMINAL LAW.

"The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1914, is a companion Act to the Immoral Traffic Act, 1914. It is a reproduction largely of the provisions of the Imperial Act, 2 and 3 Geo. V., c. 20, giving power for arrest without a warrant, increasing penalties for procurers, and strengthening the law for the suppression of brothels.

"CHAPTER 17. PUBLIC HEALTH.

"The Public Health Act 1914 is a part of the Bill which incurred a considerable amount of opposition during the Session of 1913. It provides a practically complete code regulating health matters. The creation of public health authorities and their administration; unsound food; water; aerated water; milk; infectious diseases and the prohibition of certain trades to persons suffering from infectious diseases are dealt with by the various sections of this comprehensive enactment, which is a largely consolidating but at the same time amplifying measure.

"CHAPTER 18. DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

"The Development Board Act 1914 marks a bold advance on the part of the Colony with a view to advertising the Colony thoroughly as a tourist resort.

"CHAPTER 19. MAIL SERVICE.

"The Mail Service Amendment Act 1914 provides more elastic powers in making a tract for the carriage of mails, passengers and freight. While it does not limit the amount at the disposal of the Governor in Council the Act itself is limited in duration.

"CHAPTER 23. DISEASES OF PLANTS.

"The Plants Protection Act 1914 is designed to protect the agricultural interests of the Colony by providing stringent regulations in connection with the importation of plants."

48. On account of the outbreak of war between England and Germany it became necessary to hold a special session of the Legislature on the 7th and 8th of August, 1914, when two Bills were passed and assented to, one to give the force of law to any proclamations issued by the Governor on the instructions of the Secretary of State and the other to authorise the Government to incur expenditure in supplying relief in cases of distress while a state of war exists.

IV.—EDUCATION.

49. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools:—

	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
Year.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1912	48	7,718	6,455	5,203	16	1,409	1,290	870	64	9,127	7,745	6,073
1913	48	7,397	6,386	5,217	15	1,312	1,244	897	63	8,709	7,630	6,014

50. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 48 principal teachers, 8 assistant teachers, 5 pupil teachers, 174 monitors, 13 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 15 employed in aided schools.

51. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table :—

	1912.			1913.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools	3,437	3,018	6,455	3,247	3,139	6,386
Aided Private Schools ..	650	640	1,290	627	617	1,244
Church of England ..	677	855	1,532	712	877	1,589
Roman Catholic.. ..	225	334	559	217	325	542
Private Schools	133	137	270	112	117	229
Wesleyan Schools ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5,122	4,984	10,106	4,915	5,075	9,990

52. Primary education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14 years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of 12 members (under the Chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary) appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school houses, teachers' residences, &c., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements long distances apart on the various islands, themselves separated for many miles. The average cost for each child on the rolls is 14*s*. 8½*d*. and for each child in average attendance 21*s*.

53. The grant-aided schools received an average grant of £25 in aid of the teachers' incomes, supplies of books and materials, and in many cases assistance in building or fitting up and furnishing school rooms, on condition that they should be unsectarian, and that the teachers should pass an easy examination and that the results produced should be fairly satisfactory. School fees are supposed to be the teachers' chief income, but very few are paid in cash. Field produce and labour are the principal items, and no returns of these, nor of the occasional cash payments, are ever made to the Education Department. The total amount is, however, in each case so small that, but for the grants, the schools would be closed.

54. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board there were 34 maintained by the Church of England, six of which were in New Providence ; average roll 1,589, and average attendance 941.

There were also five Roman Catholic schools, total roll about 542, and 14 private schools, roll 229.

55. There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows :—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	58	41	99
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England)	20	—	20
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	9	36	45
Governor's Harbour (Eluthera)	6	17	23
Wilson City (Abaco)	9	6	15
Harbour Island	14	8	22
Total	116	108	224

56. As was stated in the Report for 1913, it is matter for serious consideration whether the primary education given in the Board schools should not be restricted to the three R's, and more attention paid to industrial, agricultural, and technical instruction; but it is difficult to see how much can be done in this direction in view of the limited grant, the large number of teachers—mostly poorly paid—to be provided, and the widely scattered nature of the Colony.

57. In the matter of agriculture, the Board dealing with that subject have recently come to the aid of the Board of Education by promising a supply of seeds and tools for distribution as well as prizes for competition.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

58. The Bahamas General Hospital, formerly known as the New Providence Asylum, and now as "The Hospital," was established in 1809 as a poorhouse and hospital for the poor and infirm of the island. Since then the institution has grown steadily, and its functions have been extended in many directions. In 1845 it was placed under a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and now comprises the hospital proper, the infirmary, dispensary, the lunatic asylum, and the leper compound.

59. The number of inmates on 1st January, 1913, was :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Alexandra Hospital ..	21	13	34
Victoria Infirmary ..	16	15	31
Lunatic Asylum	20	14	34
Leper Asylum	3	0	3
Total	60	42	102

60. Five hundred and fifty patients were admitted during the year, making the total number under treatment 652, of whom 248 were discharged recovered, 181 relieved, 36 discharged not improved, and 136 died.

61. At the close of the year 90 remained—33 in the Alexandra Hospital, 22 in the Victoria Infirmary, 32 in the Lunatic Asylum, and 3 in the Leper Asylum.

62. The Colonial Surgeon visited 215 cases at their homes on certificate from the Relieving Officer.

63. The feasibility of forming a leper colony on one of the adjacent small islands is under consideration. This is necessary if the Lepers Act, 1913, which provides for compulsory segregation in certain cases, is to be made operative.

Savings Bank.

64. During the year ended 30th June, 1913, 3,764 deposits, amounting to £8,900, and 2,204 withdrawals, amounting to £9,468, were made. The number of depositors on June 30th, 1913, was 2,361, including 495 dead and unclaimed accounts.

The balance due to depositors was £26,200 16*s*. 5*d*.

The total liabilities amounted to £26,204 4*s*. 5*d*., assets to £29,720 10*s*. 1*d*., surplus £3,516 5*s*. 8*d*.

65. As compared with the previous year's transactions there has been an increase of 726 in number and of £1,388 13*s*. 1*d*. in the amount of deposits ; an increase of 219 in number and £2,058 18*s*. 4*d*. in amount of withdrawals ; an increase of 181 in number and of £7 2*s*. 11*d*. in the amount due to depositors.

66. During the year 619 deposits, amounting to £1,707 19*s*. 4*d*., and 82 withdrawals, amounting to £284 3*s*. 5*d*., were made at offices in the out-islands.

67. Compared with the previous year there was a marked increase in the number of transactions and amount deposited at branch offices, notably at Wilson City, Abaco, where the Bahamas Timber Company is operating, but as most of the deposits were withdrawn soon after the accounts were opened, due to the shifting of labourers, it is questionable whether the object of the bank in fostering thrift is attained. Still, a useful purpose is served in providing a place of safety for the earnings of labourers while away from home.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

68. The strength of the force on 1st January, 1914, was 85. Twenty-two men (17 from Barbados) were enlisted during 1913 and 20 discharged (5 on pension).

69. A miniature rifle range (25 yards) has been made in the barrack grounds, which, in addition to affording more practical instruction in musketry, is necessary for preliminary practices before proceeding to the rifle range.

70. On the 16th December an armed party consisting of 1 officer and 22 N.C.O's. and men proceeded to Abaco on special service for the purpose of checking any disturbance that might possibly arise among the employees of the Bahamas Timber Company in consequence of a crisis in the affairs of the Company. The party returned to Nassau on the 22nd December, the employees of the Company having been paid off on the 20th, and the crisis averted.

71. The band has been placed on a more satisfactory footing, provision having been made for the payment of the bandmaster and members.

Prisons.

72. The number of prisoners on the 1st January, 1913, was 49 males, 11 females, and 4 juveniles.

The number on the 31st December, 1913, was 43 males, 10 females, and 1 juvenile.

73. The number of admissions for the year was 121 males, 56 females, and 14 juveniles.

The total number of admissions for the preceding year was 245.

74. The daily average of prisoners was 56·91 of whom 45·19 were males, 8·99 females and 2·73 juveniles. The daily average number for the preceding year was 70·88, caused by the conviction of 59 persons for larceny from a stranded steamer.

75. The following punishments were inflicted on prisoners undergoing sentence:—Solitary confinement, 9; reduction of diet, 57; forfeiture of industrial marks, 7; and whipping juveniles with the birch, 2.

The number of punishments during the preceding year was 144.

Punishment by reduction of diet is approved by the Medical Officer before being carried into effect.

Punishment by "solitary confinement" in a dark cell and crank work have been abolished.

No case of serious insubordination occurred during the year. There was no punishment by flogging with the cat.

76. Two prisoners escaped from gangs working without the prison walls. They were retaken on the same day by the police.

77. Nine persons were discharged under the industrial marks rules, by which an adult prisoner sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a period of one year and upwards may earn a reduction of one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of his sentence. One prisoner was released for medical reasons by His Excellency the Governor. Two prisoners concerned in pillaging from a wreck off Cat Island were pardoned and released on His Majesty's birthday by His Excellency the Governor. One prisoner of exemplary conduct was pardoned and released on Christmas Day by His Excellency the Governor.

VII. VITAL STATISTICS.

78. The births in 1913 numbered 1907, as against 1,824 in 1912. The deaths were 1,433, as against 1,498 in 1912. The birth rate was 34 per 1,000 and the death rate 25·6 per 1,000.

79. The estimated population on 1st January, 1913, was 56,318

Births, 1913	1,907	
Deaths, 1913	1,433	
Add excess of births		474
		56,792
Deduct excess of emigrants over immigrants ..		1,026
Estimated population on 1st January, 1914 ..		55,766

80. Whooping-cough has been epidemic during the year over the whole Colony. There were 30 cases of typhoid fever, of which 8 died.

81. As regards water supply the commonest source of supply is wells. From an analysis which has been made at the Imperial Institute it appears that, from the samples analysed, the water is hard, contains large proportions of chlorine, and is in most instances polluted. The other source of supply is rain water stored in tanks, tubs and underground cisterns.

82. The services of a noted expert—Mr. H. H. Humphreys—were obtained with the view of demonstrating whether a supply of fresh water sufficient for the needs of the city and suburbs of Nassau could be obtained by boring or otherwise, and his report will no doubt be laid before the House of Assembly next Session.

Meteorological Statistics.

83. The following are the meteorological data for the past two years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	
1912	79·2	80·6	79·5	83·0	72·9	91·5	57·0	36·79
1913	77·0	79·0	78·1	86·4	67·1	91·0	63·5	39·96

VIII. POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

84. The postal revenue for 1913-14 was £4,354, as compared with £7,369 in the previous year, which was abnormally inflated by reason of sales, amounting to £3,825, to dealers outside the Colony of postage stamps of the issue of King George.

85. The expenditure was £775, as against £706. To this must be added the annual foreign and inter-insular mail subsidies amounting to some £10,000 a year.

86. The total number of postal packets, exclusive of parcels, received and despatched was 885,005, an increase of 33,719 over the preceding year.

87. 2,930 money orders, value £5,509, were issued, and 721, value £2,371, drawn. In 1912-13 the figures were 2,738 issued, value £5,463 ; 814 drawn, value £2,571.

88. 2,069 British postal orders, value £834, were issued, and 677, value £408, paid. In 1912-13 the figures were 1,565 issued, value £611, and 758, value £432, paid.

The postal order system has been extended to the out-islands.

Mail Contracts.

89. The contract with the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company (generally known as the Ward Line) for a mail passenger and freight fortnightly service between New York and Nassau, for which a subsidy of £2,500 per annum was paid, expired on 31st May, 1914, and negotiations are in progress for a new contract. Meanwhile it became necessary in the interests of the mercantile community for the Government to charter small steamers in New York to bring and take freight.

90. The contract with the Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company and the Florida East Coast Hotel Company providing for a steamer for mails, passengers and freight to run between Florida and Nassau during the short winter season, and providing also for the maintenance of a first-class hotel in Nassau during that time was renewed for five years, the subsidy being, as heretofore, £5,000 a year.

TELEGRAPHS.

91. Prior to June the cable, which is the property of the Colonial Government, maintained its good working condition, but during that month a fault developed which reduced its efficiency to a considerable extent. The fault gradually increased until, in early December, telegraph signals became so unreliable that it was considered advisable to abandon further attempts at working. Eventually the services of a cable repair tug were secured and partial repairs effected on the Florida shore, some three-quarters of a mile of new cable was substituted, and the cable restored to fair working order. The cost of repairs, which were effected within a mile of the Jupiter Beach, was approximately £650. Since then, however, another break unfortunately occurred, and the cable is now entirely out of commission. Repairs will cost a considerable sum, and the Government is at present considering whether it will not be advisable to relay the whole cable. Fortunately the Government had the radio-telegraph as a substitute during the interruption to the cable, and, through the courtesy of the United States Government Radio Service, there was frequent daily communication with its station at Jupiter, Florida.

92. While the Radio Service was not so prompt or reliable as that over the cable, it has, in this instance, justified to the fullest extent every effort made in advocating wireless telegraphy, primarily as a safeguard in the event of failure in the telegraph cable.

93. For the twenty-second year in succession there has been no formal complaint either as to delay or error in the telegraph business of the department during the year.

94. The revenue for 1913 was £1,988 14*s*. 3*d*., exceeding by nearly £400 that of any previous year.

95. The radio-telegraph system installed by the Anglo-French Wireless Telegraph Company was completed about the middle of August, and, apart from a faulty motor originally supplied, which has been replaced by a new and more suitable machine, the radio installation has been an unqualified success. There has been communication with Ward Line ships 350 miles distant; with Hamburg-American Line ships at Inagua; with Kingston, Jamaica; with Charleston, U.S.A., 600 miles; with Colon, Panama, 1,000 miles; and signals sent out from the station at Nassau have been heard at Newport, Rhode Island, 1,100 miles, and at Toronto, Canada, some 1,500 miles, both of the latter points reporting the signals to be very clear. But it should be pointed out that the long-distance work referred to above has been carried on during the winter months, during which period disturbing atmospheric electricity is at its minimum.

Telephones.

96. The Government telephone system in Nassau is now entirely equipped with concrete poles. It is in contemplation to replace the present switchboard by one of the latest type, with capacity for 600 subscribers. Rentals produced £1,202 in 1913-14. The cost of maintenance was £763, and after repayment of £400 instalment of loan the fund had in hand on March 31st, 1914, £524.

Electric Light.

97. By an Act of 1913 the control of the electric light and telephones has been taken away from the Governor in Council and vested in a Board of seven members appointed annually by the Governor. There are now 396 subscribers, with 5,773 lights, and 276 public street lamps, and the demand for electricity is such that it will shortly be necessary to instal a new storage battery and machinery of greater capacity.

IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Foreign Labour.

98. The following table summarizes the foreign labour traffic for two years:—

	Number of steam vessels outward bound.	Number of Labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels homeward bound.	Number of Labourers brought back after expiration of engagement.	
		To work on board ships (Stevedores).	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c. (Contract).		From work on board ships (Stevedores).	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c. (Contract).
Inagua.						
1912 ..	64	2,550	—	64	2,508	68
1913 ..	68	2,942	126	66	2,840	272
Long Cay.						
1912 ..	41	1,476	—	48	1,448	256
1913 ..	53	2,027	—	52	1,934	—

99. The Commissioner at Inagua reports that:—

"Wages are 50 cents per diem from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., one dollar per diem for Sundays, and 10 cents per hour for extra hours. One hundred and twenty-six of these men were employed by C. C. Mengel & Bro. Company at Belize, British Honduras. They were employed in laying railways and loading cars. The other men were employed as stevedores on the Hamburg-American Line, Atlas Service Steamships, and the George D. Emery's Steamships in loading mahogany at Colombian and Nicaraguan ports."

The Commissioner at Long Cay writes as follows :—

"All of these vessels (steamships) calling belong to the Hamburg-American Line. The rate of wages is 50 cents American silver per day and 10 cents per hour overtime. The total amount of the pay sheet for the year is $26,686.

NOTE.—On the outbreak of hostilities between England and Germany in August, 1914, the stevedore traffic, as far as the Hamburg-American Line is concerned, ceased.

EMIGRATION TO FLORIDA.

100. The emigration of the labouring classes to Florida continued during the year 1913, much to the detriment of the local industries.

The following table shows that during the three years ended 31st December, 1913, the excess of the persons who emigrated over those who returned was 2,372 :—

Year.	Out.			In.			Excess of Outs.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1911* ..	2,382	848	3,230	1,521	443	1,964	861	405	1,266
1912 ..	1,909	719	2,628	1,922	626	2,548	13	93	80
1913 ..	2,547	875	3,422	1,779	617	2,396	768	258	1,026
Total .	6,838	2,442	9,280	5,222	1,686	6,908	1,616	756	2,372

* Approximate.

101. In 1914, however, a reverse movement has set in, and during the six months ended 30th June there was an excess of persons returning over those leaving of 504.

ADMINISTRATION.

102. The Treasury and Customs Departments have been separated and are about to be moved to convenient and commodious quarters which will be sold by the Crown to the Colony for that purpose. When the reorganisation of the Departments is completed it is safe to anticipate a considerable increase of customs revenue, on account of improved methods of administration and the exercise of closer vigilance.

103. Before the year is out it is intended to amalgamate the Departments of the Registrar-General and the Registrar of the Supreme Court under the authority of an Act recently passed and referred to in paragraph 47 of this Report. This will also involve a change in office accommodation, including the transfer of the Magistrates' Court to the building (admittedly too small) now used by the Post Office, and the erection of a new Post Office.

104. A feature of the administration of the government of this Colony has always been the Public Boards, and too much credit cannot be given to the many citizens who give, without reward other than the thanks of the Government and their fellow citizens, their valuable time and services for the public welfare.

On these Boards serve many public officials, as well as representatives from the Executive and Legislative Councils, the House of Assembly, and the mercantile community.

The Boards deal with the following matters :—

The education of the Colony.

The public works of New Providence.

The general hospital.

The public health of the Colony.

The Nassau prison.

Pilotage.

Marine products.

Agriculture.

Electric light and telephones.

The development of the Colony by advertisement, attracting tourists and opening up fresh avenues for trade.

And the public library.

Toronto Exhibition.

105. The Colony was successfully represented at the Toronto Exhibition in 1911 and 1913, and the Chamber of Commerce have been granted a sum of £300, with which they hope to make a still more effective display at the forthcoming exhibition.

As a means of making this Colony more known in Canada as a desirable health resort, representation annually at this popular exhibition is most desirable and is not expensive.

Tourists.

106. As a winter health and pleasure resort Nassau has for many years past attracted a considerable number of American and Canadian visitors, and the hotels and boarding houses were fairly full. It is estimated that about 2,600 tourists arrived, in addition to 1,231 visitors from pleasure steamers staying here a few hours on their way north or south. Considering that the Colony pays £5,000 a year to subsidize a hotel and steamship service with Florida for only about ten weeks in the season these figures cannot be regarded as at all satisfactory.

107. The Colony has never been efficiently and sufficiently advertised. A certain amount of advertising is done by the steamship companies and the American hotel, but the attractions of the Colony are not nearly so well known in the United States and in Canada as are those of Bermuda.

108. Fired by the example of its sister Colony—Bermuda—the House of Assembly has at length tackled the question seriously, and a Development Board has been formed with power to advertise, to appoint agents, and to negotiate contracts for steamship communication. For this purpose the Legislature has voted to the Board £3,000 for each of the years 1914-15 and 1915-16, and £2,000 for each of the three following financial years.

This is a leap in the right direction, and should result in a very large increase in our tourist traffic in the near future.

Deepening Nassau Harbour.

109. As being a matter of great interest to the Colony, I subjoin the remarks on this subject which appeared in the Report for 1912-13.—

"This important question has been under consideration for a great number of years, but beyond the accumulation of reports and minutes nothing was done.

"But in the session of 1911 the House adopted a report recommending that tenders be invited from three responsible firms for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour, and providing that, in case the Colony should not be able to enter into a contract for the work, each of the three firms tendering should be allowed the sum of £200 to defray the expenses of the expert report, but that in the event of the Colony making a contract no expenses should be allowed.

"It was not, of course, possible to call for tenders on such indefinite terms, and the Governor, in a message of the 13th March, 1912, furnished the House with certain facts and figures showing the estimated number of cubic yards of rock and sand to be removed, in order to cut a channel through the bar having a minimum depth of 30 feet and to make a basin in the harbour of similar depth.

"Thereupon the House adopted a report of a Select Committee recommending that tenders be invited for blowing up the bar and deepening the harbour, and also for blowing up the reef at the entrance to Cochrane's Anchorage, and recommending, further, that the House should agree to the raising of a loan of £100,000 should a suitable tender be submitted.

"Negotiations were entered into on the lines of this proposal and tenders invited from firms in America and through the Crown Agents in London. The result was not satisfactory. Mr. A. B. Bowers, who was associated with Mr. H. T. Trumbo in the investigation made by them in 1904, came to Nassau and made an examination and took borings, but his report was too vague, and it was not found possible to come to any definite conclusion. A Message was sent to the House by the Acting-Governor submitting the correspondence on the subject, which included a proposal by Messrs. Coode, Matthews, Fitzmaurice, and Wilson to send out an expert engineer at the expense of the Colony who would investigate on the spot and would then be in a position to enable them to report:—

(a) On the best scheme which could be carried out for £100,000.

(b) The cost of carrying out such a scheme as would meet the requirements of the Colony."

The House voted a sum of £750 for this purpose, and subsequently a further sum of £496 4*s*. 10*d*. for making the necessary borings required by the Consulting Engineers.

It is hoped that the report of Mr. A. Havelock Case, the expert sent out by the Crown Agents, will settle once for all the question whether works can be undertaken which will satisfy the requirements of the port and at the same time be within the financial means of the Colony.

Shipping Commission.

110. A Commission under the presidency of Mr. Wells Durrant, the Attorney-General, was appointed by the Governor to enquire into the state of the law with regard to coasting and inter-insular trade and also the passenger and cargo trade between the Colony and foreign places, particularly Florida.

There is no law at present restricting the number of passengers that may be carried by schooners and other small craft plying between Nassau and the out-islands and between Nassau and Florida, except as regards the mail-schooners, which are under contract.

The Commission have made a number of recommendations (including the establishment of a register for small vessels) having for object the fixing of the number of passengers allowed, the inspection of vessels, the provision of sufficient boats and life-saving appliances, sanitary conveniences, &c.

The report has been transmitted to the House of Assembly, and the Government propose to introduce legislation next session embodying the recommendations of the Commissioners.

Forts.

111. The question of the preservation of ancient monuments, as to which a communication was received from the Secretary of State in 1910, was brought before the House of Assembly during the Session of 1913. A Select Committee recommended that the guns in Forts Montague, Charlotte and Fincastle, which were dismantled when the Imperial troops were withdrawn from the Colony in 1891, be remounted and that the interior of the forts and the water battery be properly maintained. Steps are being taken to carry these proposals into effect.

In connection with this subject, a most interesting historical memorandum has been written by Mr. Harcourt Malcolm, the Speaker of the House, which contains quotations from the Calendar of State Papers (Colonial Office series), the early Minutes of the House of Assembly, Reports by Military Engineers in the 18th century, and Despatches from Lord Dunmore, Governor of the Colony in 1787, and Lieutenant D'Arcy, Governor in 1792. It deals most fully and ably with the early history of the forts.

Liquor Licences.

112. The following is a statement of liquor licences issued in the Colony and revenue derived therefrom in 1912 and 1913 :—

Year.	General.	Wholesale.	Hotel.	Special.	Amount Received.
					£
1912	74	17	2	—	1,100
1913	80	19	2	—	1,215

(General, hotel, and special licences are retail licences.)

113. A map of the Colony is appended.

W. Hart Bennett,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Nassau, Bahamas,

13th August, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

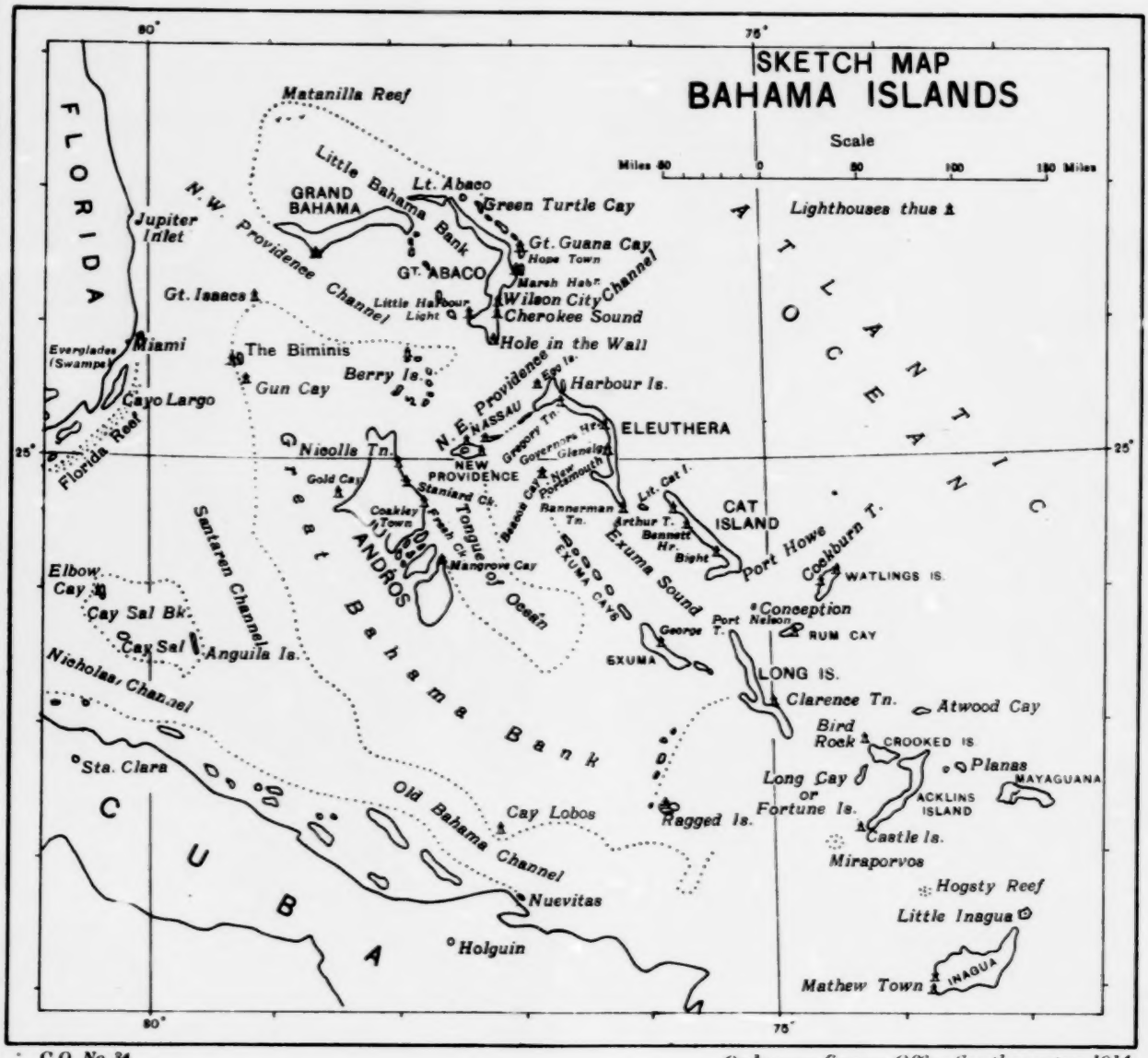
The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
772	Nyasaland	1912–19'3
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
777	Swaziland	"
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	"
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
801	Seychelles	"
802	Ceylon	"
803	Bermuda	"
804	Weihaiwei	"
805	Gambia	"
806	Gold Coast	"
807	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
808	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oils, Oilseeds, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.



C.O. No. 34

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914

LONDON:
PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S
STATIONERY OFFICE
By BARCLAY AND FRY, LTD., SOUTHWARK, S.E.

1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 849.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1914-15.

(For Report for 1913-14 see No. 809.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
July, 1915.

LONDON:
PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By BARCLAY AND FRY, LIMITED, THE GROVE, SOUTHWARK STREET, S.E.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, 29, BREAMS BUILDINGS, FETTER LANE, E.C.
and 28, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH),
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LONDON, W.C.

1915.

[Cd. 7622-40] *Price* 2½*d.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I.—Financial	4
II.—Trade, Agriculture, and Industries	7
III.—Legislation	14
IV.—Education	14
V.—Government Institutions	16
VI.—Judicial Statistics	18
VII.—Vital Statistics and Public Health	20
VIII.—Postal and Telegraph	21
IX.—General Observations	23
Sketch Map.	

No. 849.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 809.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bahamas,
10th June, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you my Blue Book Report for the year ended 31st March, 1915.

I have, &c.,
W. HART BENNETT,
Administering the Government.

The Right Honourable
Andrew Bonar Law, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C174). Wt 3607c, 350. 1125 & 90. 7.15. B.&F.,Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1915.

Note.—In submitting this Report I should explain that, although the figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1915 (the financial year of the Colony), the trade and customs statistics are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1914 (as desired by the Board of Trade), while other information is, as far as possible, brought up to the date of the Report (9th June, 1915).

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £76,911, as compared with £100,753 in 1913–14, a decrease of £23,842.

2. The following are the comparative details :—

Heads of Revenue.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	83,928	61,597	—	22,331
2. Port Dues	373	459	86	—
3. Licences and Internal Revenue	2,737	4,278	1,541	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements	2,482	3,976	1,494	—
5. Post and Telegraph ..	5,574	5,411	—	163
6. Rents	32	[illegible]	—	—
7. Widows' and Orphans' Pensions	8	7	—	1
8. Miscellaneous	66	43	—	23
9. Interest	3,176	1,108	—	2,068
10. Electrical Department ..	2,377	—	—	2,377
Totals .. £	100,753	76,911	3,121	26,963

3. The fall in Customs revenue was due partly to the war, partly to distressed conditions in some of the out-islands on account of a prolonged drought, partly to the reduction of the tariff from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

4. The increase under the head of "Licences" was apparent, not real, as, by the operation of a recent Act, receipts from liquor licences were credited to the revenue of 1914–15 instead of to that of 1915–16.

5. The increase under "Fees, &c.," was mainly due to the repayment of part of certain loans made in 1909 to persons who had suffered distress on account of the hurricane of 1908.

6. The decrease under "Interest" was due to the gradual disappearance of the surplus uninvested funds which had accumulated with the Crown Agents and had been bearing interest at the current bank rate.

7. The decrease under "Electrical" was caused by the fact that the receipts and expenditure of the electric light and telephone funds were, and will be, treated below the line, only the repayment of the principal and interest on the loans made from general revenue being credited above the line.

8. The following statement gives the customs receipts for five years:—

	£	
1910–11	69,334	20% tariff *ad valorem*.
1911–12	71,563	25% ,, ,,
1912–13	78,428	25% ,, ,,
1913–14	83,928	25% ,, ,,
1914–15	61,597	20% ,, ,,

9. The expenditure was £102,203, as against £96,496 in 1913–14—an increase of £5,707—but it includes a sum of £10,000 voted by the Legislature as a contribution to the Imperial Government for the prosecution of the war, which was paid out of surplus uninvested funds in the hands of the Crown Agents.

10. In my Report for 1913–14—paragraph 15—I pointed out that the large appropriations made by the Legislature would result in an expenditure of some £20,000 more than the probable revenue for the year. The revenue was then estimated at £93,781 and the expenditure at £113,451. The revised estimates presented to the House of Assembly in February last gave an estimated revenue of £74,723 and expenditure of £93,646 (not including the grant of the £10,000 referred to above). That the discrepancy is not greater than is shown by the actual receipts and payments is due to the facts that expenditure has been curtailed in every possible direction and that the execution of many much-needed public works has been postponed.

11. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Excess of Revenue* (+) *or Expenditure* (—).
	£	£	£
1910–11	84,386	85,315	—929
1911–12	85,592	82,676	+2,916
1912–13	97,574	88,077	+9,497
1913–14	100,753	96,496	+4,257
1914–15	76,911	102,203	—25,292
Average	£89,043	90,953	

Assets and Liabilities.

12. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1914, was £51,915, and on 31st March, 1915, £25,146.

Debt.

13. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent., was originally £113,126, and now stands at £38,246.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580.

The existing debt should be wholly liquidated in 1926.

Banks.

14. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid-up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to £61,256, was established in 1888 and now does business under the Banks Act of 1909. It issues local notes, fully secured, of the values of £1 and four shillings.

The Royal Bank of Canada also has a branch in Nassau, established in 1908, with deposits in the Colony amounting to £82,057.

Currency.

15. The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold. United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted, if of $5 and upwards, at the same rate as United States gold; if below $5, at the rate of four shillings to the dollar.

Estimates for 1915–16.

16. The revised estimate of revenue for the current year is put at £73,454. This includes the proceeds of the surtax of 10 per cent. on all duties of customs, which is expected to realise some £5,000. The Government proposed to the House of Assembly that, in addition to this surtax, certain articles should be transferred from our very liberal free list to the dutiable 20 per cent. *ad valorem* schedule, but the proposal did not find favour with the House.

17. The main object of the additional taxation was to provide interest and sinking funds for a loan to be raised locally to cover deficits, it being impossible to sell out securities at the present time, without great loss, or to raise a loan in England, or to impose further taxation. An Act has been passed empowering the Government to raise a loan not exceeding £30,000 repayable in 20 years at interest not exceeding 5 per cent., and the Act gives the Governor in Council extensive powers as to its administration.

18. I have some doubt as to whether the Colony will actually get the revenue estimated. Recent abundant rains in most of the out-islands and largely extended cultivations of ground produce, beneficial as they are to the peasants, are likely to result in smaller importations of foodstuffs and consequent decrease of customs revenue later on in the year, and merchants will probably import very little alcoholic liquor.

19. The Appropriation Act for 1915–16 having been passed by the Legislature, it is possible to estimate the expenditure for that year. It is put at £91,652, which includes expenditure on the defence account and provision for interest and sinking fund under the Loan Act referred to in paragraph 17.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

20. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1914, were valued at £367,524, as against £403,529 (including £5,285 specie) in 1913.

21. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the imports were :—

Headings.	*America.*		*England.*		*Other Countries.*		*Total.*	
	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, Food, Drink & Narcotics	148,763	138,496	37,245	27,543	20,616	18,924	206,624	184,963
2. Raw Materials	11,315	14,149	—	40	990	1,300	12,305	15,489
3. Manufactured Materials.								
Textiles ..	42,250	34,573	34,816	35,371	557	1,263	77,623	71,227
Metal ..	42,729	36,050	8,390	6,337	1,149	563	52,268	42,950
Other ..	41,265	43,695	7,643	7,842	516	1,378	49,424	52,915
4. Specie ..	2,255	—	3,030	—	—	—	5,285	—
Total .. £	288,577	266,963	91,124	77,133	23,828	23,428	403,529	397,524

The following table summarizes whence they came.

Country.	*Value.* 1913.	1914.
	£	£
United States of America	288,577	266,963
United Kingdom	91,124	77,133
Canada	6,777	5,842
British West Indies	5,555	7,576
Foreign countries other than America ..	11,496	10,010
Total ..	£403,529	£367,524

But these figures are not entirely reliable, inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in this Colony. It is possible, for instance, that certain goods from Canada appear under the heading of America, where they are transhipped.

23. The decrease of over £21,000 in value of live animals, food, drink, and narcotics is due to decreased importation, increased local roduction, and the effect of the war.

24. The decrease of over £12,000 in the value of manufactured goods, mainly in linen, woollen, fancy goods and hardware, was due entirely to the depression of trade consequent on the serious effect of the war—the first six months of the year under review being fairly up to the average of previous years.

EXPORTS.

25. The exports were valued at £223,491, as against £263,954 in 1913—a decrease of over £40,000 in the principal items of raw material. Low market prices, and the closure of certain European markets, made importation of these articles an impossibility.

26. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the exports were:—

Heading.	*Value.* 1913. £	1914. £
1. Live Animals, Food, Drink, & Narcotics	11,061	13,368
2. Raw Materials	247,848	203,925
3. Manufactured Materials	5,045	6,198
4. Specie	—	—
Total ..	£263,954	£223,491

27. Produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	*Value.* 1913. £	1914. £
United States of America	124,488	111,124
United Kingdom	37,738	35,822
Canada	1,861	1,702
British West Indies	502	323
Foreign countries other than America ..	99,365	74,520
Total ..	£263,954	£223,491

28. A comparative table of the imports and exports for the past five years is subjoined, excluding specie :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Totals.*
	£	£	£
1910	329,014	190,682	519,696
1911	308,726	209,251	517,977
1912	357,808	276,115	633,923
1913	398,244	263,954	662,198
1914	367,524	223,491	591,015
Totals ..	£1,761,316	1,163,493	2,924,809
Average for five years .	£352,263	232,699	584,962

AGRICULTURE.

29. The Chairman of the Board of Agriculture reports as follows :—

" Owing to the exceptional and steady rainfall throughout the Colony and the encouragement and assistance given by the Board the crops are proving themselves unusually good and the areas cultivated larger than for many years past.

" *Citrus Fruit.* The grape-fruit market was depressed and little shipped on account of low prices abroad. Some quantities shipped by various war funds to England.

" *Corn.* At the outbreak of war some 77 bushels of seed corn were distributed to planters in the Windward Islands. Reports as to the crop now ripening are unanimously favourable and the crop, both in Indian and Guinea, will undoubtedly be a good and large one.

" *Cotton—Sea Island.* An expert cotton planter from St. Kitts having been obtained, two experiments have been undertaken with the assistance and under the supervision of the Board, one at Clarence Town, Long Island (10 acres), and two at Exuma (aggregating 8½ acres). Reports of the former and of half of the area at Exuma are good and encouraging to the industry, provided the people can be induced to continue the cultivation in future years. The pests have not been found insuperable. The crop is now being reaped, but actual results not yet obtainable.

" *Onions.* The Board having imported seed from Teneriffe for the purpose, the cultivation of this staple vegetable has been largely extended, and arrangements are being made to supply growers with crate material and facilities for shipping to the Northern market.

" *Peanuts, Spanish,* have last season been imported and are again now being sold and distributed for the same purpose.

" *Peppers.* A beginning has been made in the growing and shipping of these in the Out-Islands that promises to develop considerably now that growers have learnt the cultivation and found the market.

" *Pineapples.* The depression of the previous year still held good, and the crop was still smaller. For the last twelve months, however, experiments in fertilizing have been carried out by various growers in various sections with such success that at all events a beginning in revival has taken place, and it can be confidently anticipated that the year's crop will be larger and better than the one just passed. The Board has contracted for a quantity of slips (30,000 dozen) to be distributed together with fertilizer and instructions of the new method to reliable cultivators, not otherwise able to extend their fields.

" *Potatoes, Irish.* Of these, 95 bushels have been distributed on terms of payment on the reaping of the crop, in order to encourage the industry.

The effects are now seen by arrivals in Nassau from the Out-Islands, at present selling at fair rates.

"*Potatoes, Sweet.* A stock of well recommended 'Triumph' sweet potatoes has been imported by the Board and distributed for propagation purposes throughout the Colony.

"*Sisal.* While exports have more than held their own in quantity, values have greatly fallen off on account of the war and the consequent stringency in the money market in the United States and the low rate of Mexican exchange. There has been no improvement in the quality of hand-cleaned exported.

"*Tomatoes.* This is a growing industry, as is shown by the fact that up to the 31st January, 1915, as many boxes had been shipped as last season altogether (20,000 crates). The Board has assisted the cultivation by supplying seed, fertilizer (cave earth), and crate material in which to ship them, and by otherwise fostering the export by attending to the shipments from the Out-Islands. A new foreign buyer has entered the market, who is doing the packing in Nassau, and shipping partly by ss. 'Miami,' thus breaking down the drawback of only fortnightly communication hitherto existing.

"*Vegetables generally.* By the importation and sale of various kinds of seeds, both in New Providence and the Out-Islands, aided by the favourable rains, the growing of vegetables has been considerably increased, and is educating the people in their consumption as food.

"*Agricultural Education.* In conjunction with the Board of Education elementary agriculture has been taught in the schools, text books, seeds, and tools have been supplied by this Board, and out of a total of 61 schools (Public and Grant-in-Aid) 51 are now so engaged, and are displaying interest on the part both of pupils and teachers.

"*Stock—Sheep.* From the Southdown ram imported at the end of last year (1913) and 30 ewes purchased here, 24 out of a total of 31 lambs are now at the Botanic Station. The starting of this venture was not made at the right time of the year to give better results, which, however, of late months have greatly improved. Some of the young stock are now ready for distribution through the Out-Islands.

"*Pigs.* Of those contracted for (seven), four arrived here in April, but so small that breeding could not then be undertaken; with the exception of one that died, three are now in a state to breed, and the other three it is hoped to be able to get here in the immediate future, communication this winter having ceased with Jamaica. The boar is offered for service on the open market.

"*Produce Exchange.* This was carried on last spring and proved itself useful in the maintaining of prices to growers of such articles as onions, Irish potatoes, corn, etc. Much of the latter the Board was able to distribute at the time of the outbreak of the war. There is only apparently a small field for this undertaking, but the moral effect of keeping prices firmer, by the Out-Island farmer not having to make immediate sale in order to return home, is good."

30. *Sisal.*—Exports in 1913, 7,249,496 lbs., value £69,950; in 1914, 5,481,857 lbs., value £46,303. Very low prices ruled during a part of the year on account of the war.

Grape Fruit.—Exports in 1913, 565,322, value £2,032; in 1914, 690,699, value £1,854.

Oranges.—Exports in 1913, 622,257, value £599; in 1914, 313,715, value £173.

Tomatoes.—Exports in 1913, 357 bushels and 6,756 crates, value £882; in 1914, 7,503 bushels and 18,036 crates, value £2,815. This is a rapidly growing industry in some of the out-islands and only needs better communication with America.

MANUFACTORIES.

31. *Pineapple-canning factories.* The export of tinned pineapples was, during the last five years :—

	£
In 1910, 43,041 cases, valued at	9,219
In 1911, 29,532 „ „	5,970
In 1912, 27,536 „ „	5,175
In 1913, 31,192 „ „	6,208
In 1914, 33,070 „ „	7,535

There is one factory at Nassau, operated by an American company.

The local supply of fruit not having been equal to the demand, the company in 1913 imported from Cuba 12,345 cases, equal to 31,862 dozen, and in 1914 1,188 cases, equal to 3,315 dozen.

32. *Lumber Mills.* The Bahamas Timber Company—also American—at Abaco milled nearly 7,000,000 feet of pine, of which over 6,200,000 feet went to Cuba. 1,293 tons of ice were also manufactured, mainly for the Nassau Market.

This mill affords much well-paid employment to both local and American workmen, and the total salaries and wages paid in 1914 amounted to £22,000.

FISHERIES.

33. The Marine Products Board report as follows :—

"The bright prospects for the sale of sponge and turtle-shell have been blighted by the disastrous war now raging in Europe and for the first time in its history the Board is unable to report favourably on the condition of our marine industries.

"Seven-eighths of our sponge and all our turtle-shell are marketed on the Continent, which was so suddenly closed to our trade in August last.

"While the first six months of the sponge trade justified the optimistic forecast of the last report, the succeeding months were the leanest ever recorded.

"For the purpose of demonstrating more forcibly the havoc that the war has made in the business the Board has divided the sales in the following manner :

Sales from	1914	1913
January to July.. ..	£54,596 7 7	£52,605 17 5
July to December ..	£18,332 7 7	£46,737 9 8
Totals ..	£72,928 15 2	£99,343 7 1

"The principal deficit occurred in the month of December, the returns for that month showing a difference of over £17,000—the difference for the whole year as compared with 1913 being £26,414 11*s.* 11*d.*

"Trading in the Out-Island depots has been correspondingly bad, some buying very little sponge and others none at all.

"As, in the opinion of the Board, the best remedy for this serious condition of the sponge market was a general closure; a meeting was held in the Chamber of Commerce to which all those interested in the sponge business were invited. Although no decision was arrived at, the brokers did not outfit the fleet for the December voyage.

"Future developments fully justified this action on their part, for there can be no question that if the large quantities of sponge usually brought to market in December had been offered for sale thousands of pounds would have been lost to the trade, as the catch would have been sacrificed (if it could have been sold at all) and the buyers over-stocked at such low prices that the market would have been affected for years.

"The only advantage is that the beds have had a period of rest and the sponges opportunity to increase in numbers and size.

Sponge Culture.

"The Board desires to interest the Government in this feature of the trade. In Florida the successful experiments of Dr. H. F. Moore noticed in former Reports have induced private capital to embark in this enterprise. A company called the Florida Key Sponge Company, with an alleged capital of $1,250,000, is now operating around Sugar Loaf Cay and Sheeps-head Bay, Florida. They claim to have 630,000 growing and fully grown sponges and they estimate their planting capacity at 15,000 plants daily.

"The Board cannot exaggerate the danger to our trade should this business prove successful and recommends that the Government should be placed in possession of reliable information concerning it, as it is of the utmost importance for the Colony to be fully prepared for competition of this kind.

"The Board has not been idle, however, and in a modest way has made experiments in sponge culture. At Exuma a small farm has been started under the management of Mr. Stanley V. S. Albury, the Commissioner, assisted by Mr. Clarence Fitzgerald, and the plantation has been very favourably reported upon by that officer, and specimens of sponge grown from clippings are in the possession of the Board and can be seen on application to the Secretary.

"The Board hopes to be able to devote more of its income to this departure in the sponge industry and if possible to have a model farm for the benefit of any who may be inclined to speculate in sponge-growing.

Turtle Fishery.

"This industry has suffered severely. As the whole of the turtle-shell, though sold in London, is used on the Continent, there has been an absolute end of trading in that commodity. Since August not a pound of shell has been exported and the stocks in the hands of the London brokers are yet unsold. While the Board regrets to report so unfavourably on this industry, yet, if after the war the trade can be resumed, and of that there can be little doubt, it will be interesting to note the effect of the involuntary closure of the turtle fishery. If our competitors, Jamaica, Turks Island, and Cuba, are in the same plight as ourselves the turtle will not be hunted and captured and their numbers ought to increase appreciably.

Pearls.

"The Board, while dealing with other marine products, thinks that it should point out that the market for these valuable gems has, with that for turtle-shell, come to an end.

Conchs.

"The principal customer for conch shells was the Continent and, as trade with the countries there has ceased, the supply far exceeds the demand."

Lands and Forests.

34. No Crown land was sold during 1914. Approximately 365,499 acres have been sold and 2,434,661 acres remain ungranted.

A very large number of holdings remain unsurveyed for want of staff, and it is not the policy of the Government to sell any more Crown lands, except for building or other special purposes, until arrangements can be made for surveying the same. The Government is, however, prepared to grant leases on reasonable terms.

35. The Secretary of State has recently approved the terms on which concessions for cutting pine timber and extracting rosin and turpentine from trees on Crown land may be made, and they can be obtained on application to the Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.

There is an area of about seven square miles in New Providence on which pine trees grow, and about twenty-one square miles at Cocoa Plum Creek, Abaco. The other pine-bearing land on Abaco, as well as the right to cut timber on Andros and Grand Bahama, has been conceded for a lengthy term to an American company—the Bahamas Timber Company, Limited.

36. SHIPPING.

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons
British ..	152	15,826	145	15,776	55	60,748	51	48,687
American ..	13	5,542	10	4,497	107	246,328	105	251,897
Haitian ..	16	162	18	175	—	—	—	—
Mexican	1	130	—	—	1	209	2	3,952
San Domingan	1	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
German ..	—	—	—	—	88	275,133	89	269,568
Cuban ..	—	—	—	—	7	13,694	7	12,509
Danish ..	—	—	—	—	2	2,544	2	2,544
Norwegian ..	—	—	—	—	4	6,086	6	10,404
Totals ..	183	21,693	173	20,448	266	609,060	262	599,561
Totals 1913	161	15,194	158	15,256	317	810,092	316	807,237

The decreased tonnage of steamers is due to the fact that on the outbreak of war the Hamburg-American steamships ceased to call for stevedores.

37. The number and tonnage of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years were: in 1910, 9 and 336 tons; in 1911, 10 and 179 tons; in 1912, 2 and 22 tons; in 1913, 10 and 440 tons; and in 1914, 4 and 34 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

38. A résumé of the principal Acts of last year's Session, which closed on 22nd June, 1914, will be found in paragraph 47 of my Report for 1913–14.

39. A Special Session was held in August, 1914, after the outbreak of the war. Two Bills became law, one to give the force of law to any proclamations issued by the Governor on the instructions of the Secretary of State, and the other to authorise the Government to incur expenditure in supplying relief in cases of distress, both during the existence of a state of war.

40. The Session of 1915 was opened on the 8th February. The Government did not think it expedient at that critical time to invite the Legislature to consider any legislation of a controversial nature or involving expenditure not immediately necessary. Consequently, the Session, which was prorogued on the 31st May, has not added many pages to the Statute Book. Six Bills became law, of which it is only necessary to notice two—the Tariff Amendment Act, which imposed a surtax of 10 per cent. on all duties of customs—in effect a war tax—and the Loan Act, which empowered the Government to raise a loan not exceeding £30,000, repayable in 20 years at a rate of interest not to exceed 5 per cent.

IV.—EDUCATION.

41. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools :—

	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
Year.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1913	48	7,397	6,386	5,217	15	1,312	1,244	897	63	8,709	7,630	6,014
1914	51	7,904	6,670	5,350	12	981	941	691	63	8,895	7,611	6,041

42. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 51 principal teachers, 8 assistant teachers, 5 pupil teachers, 173 monitors, 13 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 12 employed in aided schools.

43. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table:—

	1913.			1914.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools	3,247	3,139	6,386	3,458	3,212	6,670
Aided Private Schools ..	627	617	1,244	482	459	941
Church of England ..	712	877	1,589	676	804	1,480
Roman Catholic.. ..	217	325	542	212	293	505
Private Schools	112	117	229	98	112	210
Wesleyan Schools ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4,915	5,075	9,990	4,926	4,880	9,806

44. Primary education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14 years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of twelve members (under the Chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary) appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school houses, teachers' residences, &c., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements long distances apart on the various islands, themselves separated for many miles. The average cost for each child on the rolls is 14*s.* 5*d.* and for each child in average attendance 21*s.* 2*d.*

45. The grant-aided schools received an average grant of £24 10*s.* in aid of the teachers' incomes, supplies of books and materials, and in many cases assistance in building or fitting up and furnishing school rooms, on condition that they should be unsectarian, and that the teachers should pass an easy examination and that the results produced should be fairly satisfactory. School fees are supposed to be the teachers' chief income, but very few are paid in cash. Field produce and labour are the principal items, and no returns of these, nor of the occasional cash payments, are ever made to the Education Department. The total amount is, however, in each case so small that, but for the grants, the schools would be closed.

46. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board there were 33 maintained by the Church of England, six of which were in New Providence; average roll 1,480, and average attendance 846.

47. There were also five Roman Catholic schools, total roll about 505, and 12 private schools, roll 210.

48. There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	59	35	94
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England)	15	—	15
St. Hilda's High School	12	39	51
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	9	36	45
Harbour Island	12	9	21
Total	107	119	226

49. With the help of the Board of Agriculture, school gardens for the cultivation of vegetables have been started all over the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

50. The so-called hospital, originally established in 1809 as a poor-house, now comprises the hospital proper, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper compound.

51. The number of inmates on 1st January, 1914, was:—

	Males.	Females.
Alexandra Hospital	16	17
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary	11	11
Lunatic Asylum	16	16
Leper Asylum	3	0
Totals	46	44
	Total 90.	

52. During the year 1914 there were 719 admissions, making a total under treatment of 809, of whom 292 were discharged recovered, 179 relieved, 38 unchanged and 115 died.

53. At the close of the year 101 remained—39 in the hospital, 29 in the infirmary, 29 lunatics, and 4 lepers.

54. No less than 14,950 prescriptions were made up at the dispensary.

55. The number of paupers receiving rations on 1st January last was 603, being 101 in excess of the number on 1st January, 1914, due to the war.

56. A three-storey addition has been made, comprising a nurses' sitting room on the second floor and a paying patients' ward on the top floor.

57. The sanitary condition of the hospital has been improved by laying a sewer pipe for surface drainage to the sea.

58. There are other improvements which should be carried out when funds permit, notably further drainage facilities and a hot water system, but the institution is so large that the Board of Commissioners were not able last year to keep their expenditure within the £6,000 per annum allowed. The difficulty will be greater this year as the Legislature have reduced the appropriations to £5,500.

Savings Bank.

59. During the year ended 30th June, 1914, 3,698 deposits, amounting to £8,492 4*s*. 8*d*., and 2,568 withdrawals, amounting to £8,676 14*s*. 4*d*., were made—an excess of £184 9*s*. 8*d*. in withdrawals over deposits.

60. The number of depositors on June 30th, 1914, was 2,455, including 492 dead and unclaimed accounts. The balance due to depositors was £26,629 10*s*. 9*d*.

61. The total liabilities amounted to £26,632 18*s*. 9*d*., assets to £30,518 6*s*. 1*d*.; surplus, £3,885 7*s*. 4*d*.

62. If the difference (£2,307 19*s*. 3*d*.) between the cost and market values of investments be struck off, the surplus will be reduced to £1,577 8*s*. 1*d*.

63. As compared with the transactions of the previous year there was a decrease of 66 in number and of £407 15*s*. 7*d*. in the amount of deposits, an increase of 364 in number and a decrease of £791 3*s*. 8*d*. in the amount of withdrawals, and an increase of 94 in number and of £428 14*s*. 4*d*. in the amount due to depositors.

64. During the year 676 deposits, amounting to £1,930 8*s*. 4*d*. and 101 withdrawals, amounting to £388 3*s*. 2*d*., were made at branch offices, as against 619 deposits, amounting to £1,707 19*s*. 4*d*., and 82 withdrawals, amounting to £284 3*s*. 5*d*., in the previous year.

65. The total number of transactions with depositors was 6,266, of which depositors at the out-islands contributed 777, or about 12 per cent., indicating that the people of New Providence are more thrifty and provident than people in other parts of the Colony. But such a conclusion would be entirely erroneous, as a large number of depositors at the out-islands find it more convenient to deal directly with the head office than through the branch offices.

66. An inevitable but unfortunate effect of the war has been a large increase in the amount of withdrawals since August last and, it being impossible to sell out securities at present, the Government has had to advance funds to meet withdrawals to the extent of £3,000.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

Strength.

67 The strength on the 31st December, 1914, was:—

Officers	1
Sergeant major	1
Rank and file	83
Constable, Board of Education ..	1
Total all ranks	86

68. Eight men enlisted during the twelve months under review, all within the Colony.

Seven men were discharged and 11 N.C.O.'s and men re-engaged.

69. The efficiency of the force has been maintained. The general conduct has been good.

The general health of the force has been good, only one serious case of illness having been recorded.

70. The weekly band concerts had to be suspended for some time after the outbreak of war. They have since been resumed and will be continued as heretofore.

Prisons.

71. The number of prisoners on the 1st January was:—

Males	43
Females	10
Juveniles	1
Total	54

The number on the 31st December was:—

Males	48
Females	6
Juveniles	7
Total	61

The number of admissions for the year was:—

Males	123
Females	47
Juveniles	17
Total	187

The total number of admissions for the previous year was 191.

72. The daily average of prisoners was 55·71, of whom 46·08 were males, 8·2 females, and 1·43 juveniles.

The daily average number for the preceding year was 56·91.

73. The following punishments were inflicted on prisoners undergoing sentences :—

Solitary confinement	50
Reduction of diet	104
Forfeiture of industrial marks ..	1
Whipping of juveniles with birch ..	1
Total	156

The total number of punishments during the preceding year was 75.

Punishment by reduction of diet is approved by the medical officer before being carried into effect.

There was no punishment by flogging with the cat. Punishment by solitary confinement in a dark cell has been abolished, and the "dark cells" have now been reconstructed to form "punishment" cells.

There were only two cases of "insubordination," both by females, who assaulted the assistant matron at different times. They were given the maximum punishment provided.

74. There were no escapes.

75. Eleven prisoners completed their sentences and were discharged under the Industrial Marks Rules, by which adult prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a period of one year or upwards may earn a reduction of one-fourth of their sentences.

One prisoner was released under warrant from His Excellency the Governor for "medical reasons."

Three prisoners of exemplary conduct were pardoned and released by His Excellency the Governor; two on His Majesty's birthday and one on the 14th of December.

76. Two prisoners died during this year; one male at the hospital, the cause of death being "pellagra," and one female in the prison hospital ward, the cause of death being "gonorrhœal endomitritis."

In respect of each death there was a coroner's inquest, and the verdict returned in each case was "death from natural causes."

77. The general health of the prisoners has been reported "good" by the medical officer, and the sanitary condition of the institution "excellent."

78. The discipline maintained has been good, especially on the male side; on the female side an assistant matron (who has now resigned and left the service) had some difficulty in carrying out her duties.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

80. The births in 1914 numbered 1,939, as against 1,907 in 1913. The deaths were 1,367 as against 1,433 in 1913. The birth-rate was 34·8 per 1,000 and the death-rate 24·5 per 1,000.

81. The estimated population on 1st January, 1914, was 55,766

Births, 1914	1,939	
Deaths, 1914	1,367	
Add excess of births		572
		56,338
Deduct excess of emigrants over immigrants ..		699
Estimated population on 1st January, 1915 ..		55,639

82. There was no serious or general epidemic of disease. There were a few cases of whooping cough and measles, and diarrhœa and dysentery were far less prevalent than usual. There were 21 cases of typhoid fever (of which 2 died), as compared with 30 (of which 8 died) the previous year.

83. Tuberculosis is rife among the coloured population; a simple leaflet of advice with regard to the disease has been printed and widely distributed.

84. The Chief Medical Officer also prepared a list of concentrated mixtures, tablets, etc., together with a small pamphlet of instructions in the use of those medicines in simple ailments occurring in the out-islands, where no medical man is resident.

85. As regards water supply, the commonest source of supply is wells. From an analysis which has been made at the Imperial Institute it appears that, from the samples analysed, the water is hard, contains large proportions of chlorine, and is in most instances polluted. The other source of supply is rain water stored in tanks, tubs, and underground cisterns.

The report of a well-known water engineer—Mr. H. H. Humphreys—on a scheme for supplying the city and suburbs of Nassau with fresh water by boring and by storing in a reservoir has been received and laid before the House of Assembly, but financial considerations at present prevent any further action.

86. The Chief Medical Officer has discovered in brackish lakes in New Providence certain mosquito-larvæ-destroying fish very similar to, if not identified with, the so-called "millions" of Barbados.

Meteorological Statistics.

87. The following are the meteorological data for the past three years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
1912	79·2	80·6	79·5	83·0	72·9	91·5	57·0	36·79
1913	77·0	79·0	78·1	86·4	67·1	91·0	63·5	39·96
1914	76·3	80·3	77·4	72·0	80·8	64·4	86·2	54·32

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

88. The postal revenue for 1914–1915 was £3,470, as compared with £4,354 in the previous year. The decrease was due partly to the withdrawal of the King Edward stamps.

The expenditure was £1,005, as against £775 in 1913–1914, to which must be added the foreign and inter-insular mail subsidies, amounting to some £13,000 a year.

89. The total number of postal packets (exclusive of parcels) received and despatched was 1,029,177, an increase of 144,172 over the preceding year.

90. 2,770 Money Orders, value £4,964, were issued, a decrease of 160 in number and £545 in amount.

828 Money Orders, value £2,570, were paid—an increase of 107 in number and £199 in value.

91. 3,075 Postal Orders, value £1,222, were sold, and 704, value £372, paid. In 1913–1914 the figures were 2,069, value £834, sold, and 677, value £408, paid.

92. Mutual penny postage with the United States was adopted on 1st January, 1915. Prior to that, although letters could be sent from the Colony to America for one penny, the rate from America to the Colony was 5 cents, and the revenue accruing from the tax on insufficiently prepaid correspondence originating in the United States amounted to quite £200 a year.

93. Local improvements have been made by the introduction of seven letter-boxes in different parts of the city and suburbs and the appointment of a postman. Hitherto all persons had to attend at the post office to send and receive letters.

94 A contract for the conveyance of mails, passengers, and freight between Nassau and New York for a period of two years, expiring in August, 1916, has been made with the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company (known as the Ward Line) for an annual subsidy of £5,000—double that previously paid.

95. A subsidy of £5,000 per annum is also paid to the Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company and the Florida East Coast Hotel Company for a mail, passenger, and freight service between Miami (Florida) and Nassau during the short winter season. The contract also contains provision for the maintenance of a first-class hotel in Nassau during that time.

96 Subsidies paid to the various local schooners for inter-insular mail, passenger, and freight communications amount to about £3,000 per annum.

Telegraphs.

97. In November, 1913, there was a complete failure of the telegraph cable between Nassau and Florida. Repairs were effected on January 11th, 1914, and there was another total failure (about two months later) on March 13th.

98. As the mechanical condition of the cable armour after twenty-three years of service is probably poor, and other breaks might follow, it was not considered wise to incur further heavy cost of repairs, the life of which would be entirely problematical.

99. Thus the cable which had served so well from its installation, on February 3rd, 1892, was temporarily abandoned and to the present time no definite action has been taken with regard to further repairs or renewal.

100. A telegraph cable of sufficient length to reach the Florida coast would cost at least £35,000.

Should that sum, or a greater amount, be available at any time for such purpose the Government is of the opinion that it would be better to put it into a cable that would link with one of the British-owned cables in the vicinity of Turks Island, though a wireless service which would give the desired communication with that island could probably be established for one-third the cost of a cable.

101. The disadvantage of having to rely entirely on a wireless system communicating with a foreign country has been shown during the present war, when all messages passing through the neutral country of America have to be in clear, no code or cypher being allowed.

102. The working of the Nassau wireless station is highly satisfactory and it is gratifying to be able to state that the service is quite as prompt and reliable as that previously performed on the cable.

103. The new apparatus for which the Legislature last year voted the sum of £450 has been entirely installed and has greatly exceeded expectations regarding its efficiency. We have now, in addition to more sensitive and reliable equipment, duplicate parts of all apparatus

likely to break down and we are safeguarded against accidental breaks in machinery and other parts.

104. Estimates have been made for the installation of wireless at Inagua and Long Cay. The cost is entirely beyond the means of the Colony at present, and, I fear, for a long time to come.

Telephones.

105. The telephone switchboard has shown the effects of age and heavy service demands and its working cannot be taken as wholly satisfactory at all times.

The new switchboard, with capacity for 600 subscribers, to replace the present one of 300 capacity, has been received and when installed should give improved service, and accommodation for additional subscribers for many years to come.

106. During the year there were 11 subscribers admitted, mostly on "party-lines," making a total of 320 telephones on the system.

107. There was a total of 406,409 calls for the year, an increase of 27,068 over the year previous. The maximum one-day total for the year was 3,066 calls, on December 31st.

Electric Light.

109. There are now 425 subscribers, with 6,268 lights, and 276 street lights, and no further applications for the supply of electricity can be granted.

IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Foreign Labour.

111. The following table summarizes the foreign labour traffic for three years:—

	Number of steam vessels outward bound.	Number of Labourers engaged.		Number of steam vessels homeward bound.	Number of Labourers brought back after expiration of engagement.	
		To work on board ships (Stevedores).	To work on docks, railroads, lumber camps, &c. (Contract).		From work on board ships (Stevedores).	From work on docks, railways, lumber camps, &c. (Contract).
Inagua.						
1912 ..	64	2,550	—	64	2,508	68
1913 ..	68	2,942	126	66	2,840	272
1914 ..	37	1,539	—	39	1,623	111
Long Cay.						
1912 ..	41	1,476	—	48	1,448	256
1913 ..	53	2,027	—	52	1,934	—
1914 ..	63	1,176	—	63	1,058	—

112. The Commissioner at Inagua reports that :—

"Wages are 50 cents per diem from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., one dollar per diem for Sundays, and 10 cents per hour for extra hours. Men were employed as stevedores on the Hamburg-American Line, Atlas Service Steamships, and the George D. Emery's steamships in loading mahogany at Colombian and Nicaraguan ports."

113. The Commissioner at Long Cay writes as follows :—

"The stevedores received 50 cents, or 2 shillings, a day, and 10 cents, or 5 pence, for each hour overtime—day's work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.—labourers employed for eighteen days going and returning by the same ship. With the exception of one wrecking tug that called for a few men, all stevedores served on board ships of the Hamburg-American Line. Since the war very nearly 300 Bahamians have been sent back by the Hamburg-American Line and the United States Government from Colon."

114. The Hamburg-American Line (Atlas Service) ceased the stevedore traffic at the outbreak of war. The George D. Emery Company's steamships continued to call, but have since ceased.

115. 112 foreign labourers returned to Inagua from Honduras, where they had been employed by the C. C. Mengel & Bros. Lumber Company. The pay roll amounted to £2,300 and in a few days most of the money had been squandered, leaving the labourers in as bad a financial condition as before they left.

116. At Long Cay the total amount paid for 1913 was about £5,400, in 1914 only £3,300.

The Development of the Colony.

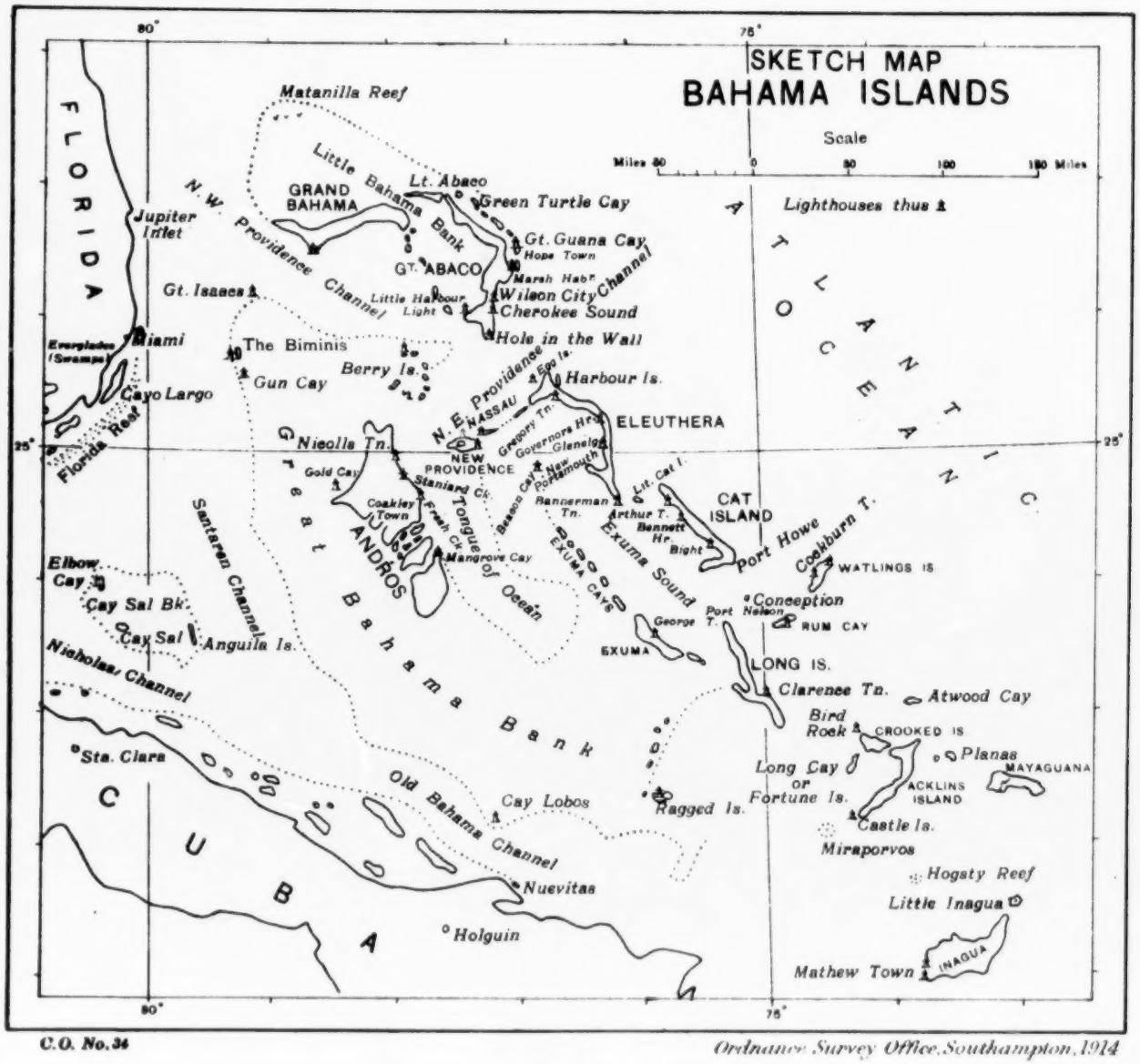
117. I append extracts from the Report of the Board established by an Act of 1914 to improve and increase facilities for tourists, etc.

"In order to improve the passenger service between the United States and the Colony, and to provide additional means of communication, the Board carefully considered the advisability of endeavouring to establish a steamship service between the Port of Jacksonville and Nassau. Representations were made to it that such a service would be beneficial, not only to intending tourists, to whom Jacksonville would be a more convenient port of departure, but also in developing the trade in fruit and vegetables with the United States, by affording quicker transit of agricultural products, and enabling them to be put on the market in better condition. The Board is satisfied that these advantages should steadily be kept in view in endeavouring to promote the objects set out in the Act under which it is constituted, especially as there are little or no cold storage facilities on the steamers engaged in carrying cargo to New York.

"Owing to the difficulties which arose in connection with insurance matters, and to the late period of the season, it became impracticable to establish the Jacksonville service, and the Board was reluctantly compelled to abandon the matter for this season. The United States Consul succeeded in interesting influential parties in the matter, and notwithstanding the opposition which the Board has encountered, it is confidently hoped that it will be in a position to obtain such a service for next season."

118. The Board caused an illustrated booklet to be prepared and widely distributed in the United States and Canada, and advertised extensively in over 50 American newspapers and 36 magazines.

119. Mr. Richard Le Gallienne, the distinguished author and poet, was induced to visit the Colony, and will write articles and stories with a Bahamas background, which should do much to attract tourists.



C.O. No. 34

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914

120. A race course and polo ground has been added to the attractions of Nassau.

121. An effort was also made to induce the London offices of Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son to arrange for tours from Great Britain to the Bahamas, and the White Star Line were addressed with the same object. The conditions produced by the war rendered it impossible for any such tours to be arranged, and the same conditions have unfortunately prevented any excursion steamers from calling at Nassau during the season. The tourist traffic in this direction has been of a negligible quantity. In the season of 1914 about five excursion steamers called here, and several of them left passengers who remained for a few days. Their absence during the season just closed has undoubtedly affected the commercial section of the community.

Emigration to Florida.

122. The figures for the past three years are as follows :—

Year.	Out.			In.			Excess of Outs.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1912 ..	1,909	719	2,628	1,922	626	2,548	13	93	80
1913 ..	2,547	875	3,422	1,779	617	2,396	768	258	1,026
1914 ..	2,806	952	3,758	2,302	757	3,059	504	195	699
Totals.	7,262	2,546	9,808	6,003	2,000	8,003	1,259	546	1,805

The figures from 1st January to 31st May, 1915, were :—

Out : Males, 352 ; females, 222. Total 574.

In : Males, 1,008 ; females, 348. Total, 1,356.

123. A map of the Colony is appended.

Administration.

124. The Governor—then Mr. (now Sir George) Haddon-Smith—left the Colony on transfer to the Windward Islands on 17th December, 1914, and the government was administered from that date by the writer of this Report. His successor, Mr. V. L. Allardyce, C.M.G., Governor of the Falklands, is expected to arrive on the 15th instant.

W. Hart Bennett,

Colonial Secretary,

Administering the Government.

Government House,

Nassau, Bahamas,

9th June, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	,,
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
820	Jamaica	,,
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	,,
823	Zanzibar	,,
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	,,
827	British Honduras	,,
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
830	Swaziland	,,
831	Uganda	,,
832	Nyasaland	,,
833	British Guiana	,,
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	,,
837	Somaliland	,,
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East African Protectorate	,,
841	Leeward Islands	,,
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
845	Weihaiwei	,,
846	Seychelles	,,
847	St. Helena	,,
848	Fiji	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 900.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1915-16.

(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 849.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1916.

LONDON:
PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
BY BARCLAY AND FRY, LTD., THE GROVE, SOUTHWARK STREET, S.E.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, 29, BREAMS BUILDINGS, FETTER LANE, E.C., and 28, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH),
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies, the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LIMITED, LONDON, W.C.

1916.

[Cd. 8172-26.] *Price* 1½*d.*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I.—Financial	4
II.—Trade, Agriculture, and Industries	5
III.—Legislation	13
IV.—Education	13
V.—Government Institutions	15
VI.—Judicial	16
VII.—Vital Statistics and Public Health	16
VIII.—Postal and Telegraph	17
IX.—General Observations	19

A sketch map will be found in the previous Report, No. 849: [Cd. 7622–40.]

No. 900.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1914–15 see No. 849.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bahamas,
25th August, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book Report for the year ended the 31st March, 1916, compiled by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
W. L. ALLARDYCE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(C301) Wt.45316/1003. 1000 & 90. 10.16. B.&F.,Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT BY THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1916.

Note.—In submitting this Report I should explain that, although the figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1916 (the financial year of the Colony), the trade and customs statistics are for the calendar year ended 31st December, 1915 (as desired by the Board of Trade).

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £86,251, as compared with £76,911 in 1914–15.

"Crown" revenue is not included.

2. The increase in Customs revenue amounted to £9,561, and was due to improved conditions of trade generally, and to the imposition of a surtax of 10 per cent. on import duties.

3. The increase of £1,676 under the head of "Post and Telegraph" was due to increased receipts in the telegraph department during the tourist season.

4. The expenditure was £90,925, as against £102,203 in 1914–15 (which included £10,000 war grant to the mother country).

Assets and Liabilities.

5. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1915, was £25,146, and on 31st March, 1916, £44,470.

Debt.

6. The Public Debt (other than the debt incurred under the Loan Act, 1915) bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent., was originally £113,126, and now stands at £33,518. The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580, and the debt should be wholly liquidated in 1926.

7. The Loan Act, 1915, empowered the Government to raise a loan not exceeding £30,000, repayable in 20 years at interest not exceeding 5 per cent. £20,000 in £100 Debentures at 5 per cent. have been issued to the Nassau branch of the Royal Bank of Canada and £5,000 to the Bank of Nassau. The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is £2,407.

BANKS.

8. The Bank of Nassau, with a paid-up capital of £10,000, note circulation of £6,500, and deposits in the Colony amounting to £66,650, was established in 1888 and now does business under the Act then passed as amended by the Bank Act, 1909. It issues local notes, fully secured, of the value of £1 and four shillings.

9. The Royal Bank of Canada also has a branch at Nassau, established in 1908, with deposits in the Colony amounting to £112,501.

CURRENCY.

10. The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold. American gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted, if of $5 and upwards, at the same rate of American gold; if below $5, at the rate of four shillings to the dollar. British Treasury Notes, £1 and 10*s*., are in circulation to the extent of £16,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

11. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1915, were valued at £363,410 as against £367,524 in 1914.

12. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the imports were:—

Headings.	*America.*		*England.*		*Other Countries.*		*Total.*	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, Food, Drink & Narcotics	138,496	141,632	27,543	20,939	18,924	18,574	184,963	181,145
2. Raw Materials	14,149	10,361	40	1,385	1,300	850	15,489	12,596
3. Manufactured Materials.								
Textiles ..	34,573	50,035	35,371	23,075	1,263	1,985	71,207	75,095
Metal ..	36,050	38,711	6,337	9,487	563	230	42,950	40,163
Other Goods	43,695	42,230	7,842	3,694	1,378	222	52,915	54,411
4. Specie ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. £	266,963	282,969	77,133	58,580	23,428	21,861	367,524	363,410

13. The following table summarizes whence they came:—

Country.	*Value.* 1914. £	1915. £
United States of America	266,963	282,969
United Kingdom	77,133	58,580
Canada	5,842	3,714
British West Indies	7,576	13,687
Foreign countries other than America ..	10,010	4,460
Total ..	£367,524	£363,410

But these figures are not entirely reliable, inasmuch as certificates of origin are not required in this Colony. It is possible, for instance, that certain goods from Canada appear under the heading of America, where they are transhipped.

Exports.

14. The exports were valued at £243,431, as against £223,491 in 1914—an increase of almost £20,000, chiefly noticeable in sisal, sponge, lignumvitæ, and tomatoes.

15. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the exports were:—

Heading.	*Value.* 1914. £	1915. £
1. Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics	13,368	11,581
2. Raw Materials	203,925	225,981
3. Manufactured Materials	6,198	5,869
4. Specie	—	—
Total ..	£223,491	£243,431

16. Produce was exported to the following countries:—

Country.	*Value.* 1914. £	1915. £
United States of America	111,124	145,073
United Kingdom	35,822	54,174
Canada	1,702	2,229
British West Indies	323	484
Foreign countries other than America ..	74,520	41,471
Total ..	£223,491	£243,431

17. The average value of the imports and exports for the past five years, including specie, was:—Imports £359,143, and Exports £243,248.

18. *The Effect of the War.* As will be observed from these figures there was a net decrease of £4,114 in imports; high freight rates and the delay in obtaining goods ordered from the United Kingdom in the early months of the year were the chief causes. Foodstuffs particularly showed an enormous drop, brought about, no doubt, by an undue precaution on the part of importers, in consequence of the supposed uncertainty of exportations of the staple products, sponge going forward, and by increased local prices. Exports did not appear to have been very much disturbed, although several commodities showed decreases. Shells (conch and tortoise) were most affected, and the exportation of them almost ceased, with the exception of pieces and lips of the conch, which showed a slight increase. The better grades of sponge fell off, while the cheap grades increased enormously, giving evident signs that distributing centres, of which Germany had apparently hitherto possessed a monopoly, had been found in England, America, and Holland. Preserved pineapples showed a decline, but this was partly due to a slightly smaller crop. The same may be said of the grape fruit and the orange. The Bahamas hemp, more commonly known as sisal, showed a satisfactory increase of over £26,000, due entirely to the unrest in Mexico.

AGRICULTURE.

19. In their annual report the Board of Agriculture report as follows:—

"There is a marked improvement generally in agriculture to be reported for this year owing to various causes, among which are, generally speaking, good rainfalls, inclination to return to farming on account of the war conditions, and the continued encouragement given by this Board, both educationally and practically, to the small farmers. This is shown by the increased exports of farms and plantation products, as well as by the improved supplies in local markets.

"*Citrus Fruit.* Foreign market conditions in this article have militated against anything like reasonable prices being obtained for both grape fruit and oranges abroad, thus deterring growers from shipping to even former amounts. The cause of this depression is at this moment unknown to the Board."

"*Corn.* The crops generally speaking in the Windward Islands, where this product is grown for home consumption, have been on the whole good, owing to fair rains and also increased area planted, and thus no distress in these sections has been apparent."

"*Cotton.* The experiments carried out last year by the Board to demonstrate the possibility of growing Sea Island cotton in this Colony have not proved a success, both on account of local conditions and low market values in England. They have therefore been discontinued and the cultivation of this product this year must be reported as very small."

"*Onions.* The heavy rains during the cropping season of last year caused considerable rot in the product when brought to market, thus discouraging growers somewhat, added to which the late arrival of the seed ordered by the Board, due to congested transportation, caused many planters not to plant, or to put out decreased quantities; consequently the crop will be small and late."

"*Peppers.* Notwithstanding good prospects as shown last year this article has not met with favour in the U.S. markets this season, due largely to improper packing."

"*Pineapples.* There is little change to report on this article this present year, in fact contract prices have been slightly reduced, but the undertaking of the Board, as well as other parties, in the distribution of large quantities of slips with fertilizer and cave earth to growers, should produce satisfactory results. It may be reported that the new cultivations are looking strong and promising larger crops when these are due next season. The experiment in this line by the Board is encouraging."

"*Potatoes, Irish.* Fewer applications were made this year for seed, but the results so far have been very good in quality and obtained good prices."

"*Potatoes, Sweet.* The supply is somewhat limited on account of destruction in sections by the potato weevil discovered last year. The reports on the new 'Triumph' seed then imported by the Board are favourable both as to quality and yield."

"*Sisal.* Increased yield and high prices have proved a boon to the growers and cleaners, the latter caused by the Mexican troubles and speculative combinations in the two countries."

"*Tomatoes.* Largely increased quantities of this product have been raised and exported up to date to the number of 56,000 crates as against 38,000 total last year, and it is expected that by the end of the shipping season the total will reach over 60,000 crates, which has been made possible by shipments *viâ* Jacksonville by steamship 'Miami,' thus saving the wastage occasioned on account of former bi-weekly shipments only direct to New York. Unfortunately, the market conditions have again militated against a benefit to growers, prices having been very considerably lower than last year, while freight charges considerably increased. Blizzards and severe cold have also interfered with the market, this article being too delicate to be moved under severe weather conditions. The Board has assisted growers to a very much larger extent than last year with seed and crates as well as shipping facilities. The old complaint against packers as to poor packing and careless and rash handling of the fruit is more than ever apparent, and is the cause that this year Nassau fruit is quoted at less than Florida, whereas last year it ranked above."

20. *Sisal.* Exports in 1914, 5,481,857 lbs., value £46,303; in 1915, 7,735,605 lbs., value £72,601. Prices ruled high during the greater part of the year, due to the unsettled conditions in Mexico.

21. *Grape Fruit.* Exports in 1914, 690,699, value £1,854; in 1915, 521,020, value £1,209.

22. *Oranges.* Exports in 1914, 313,715, value £173; in 1915, 49,110, value £70.

23. *Tomatoes.* Exports in 1914, 7,503 bushels and 18,036 crates, value £2,815; in 1915, 27,063 bushels, value £3,366. The export considerably increased over that of the previous year, but lack of care in packing and handling the fruit still continues, and contributed towards the lower prices than those of last year.

Manufactories.

24. *Pineapple-canning factories.* The export of tinned pineapples during the last five years:—

Year.	Cases.	Value. £
1911	29,532	5,970
1912	27,536	5,175
1913	31,192	6,208
1914	33,070	7,535
1915	21,756	5,550

25. *Lumber Mills.* The American Company at Abaco milled 10,179,000 feet of pine, of which 6,533,185 feet went to Cuba.

Fisheries.

26. The Marine Products Board report as follows:—

"The continuance of the struggle in Europe has not been without its effect upon some of our industries, yet the Board is pleased to report that the sponge business has entirely recovered from the panic that, in the early stages of the War, threatened it with ruin.

"Owing to the scanty supply, prices rose beyond expectation, and the sales for the year on the exchange in the capital amounted to the gratifying total of £97,810 1*s.* 5*d.*

"Without a doubt the loss to the market of the December catch (*vide* Report 1914) reacted favourably on the trade, as buyers were forced to keen competition in filling contracts for sponges that could be procured in no market but our own.

"The stability and importance of our sponging industry has never been more convincingly proved than during the late crisis, for notwithstanding the many disturbing rumours that were circulated during the year, rumours so alarming that had they proved true would have demoralized the trade, the demand was sustained and prices showed no signs of the depression that weighed heavily on the exchange.

"In view of the experiments that the Board has engaged in for the last two years, the Board has taken a census of the wool and velvet sponge sold on the exchange during the month of December, when the largest sales of the year are effected. 1,500,540 sponges of these varieties were brought to market, and the division of this number is as follows:—

Velvet	1,295,828
Wool	204,712
Total	1,500,540

"These returns very sharply point to the fact that the Board has been urging upon the Legislature, viz., that the output of wool sponge is rapidly diminishing and fully justifies the efforts that the Board has been making to supply that deficiency by artificial means.

"One of these means is the experiment at Cupid's Cay, Governor's Harbour, concerning which the Board in last year's report promised to furnish the Legislature with some interesting information."

"The Current Mud, from which such enormous supplies of wool sponges used to be received, was thought to be inexhaustible, but has yielded so few wool sponges in the last few years that the catch of that variety from those waters is almost negligible.

"As far back as 1910 the Board has been endeavouring to discover the cause for this shortage and to remove it if possible, as the following extract from the report for that year will prove."

Extract from Report for 1910.

"The Board during the past year has buoyed a small space of water off the Port of Governor's Harbour for the purpose of carrying out an experiment with the view of increasing the numbers of the valuable sponge known to the trade as the current wool, which grows on the southern coast of Eleuthera.

"The Board from time to time has heard of the curious substances on which sponges have adhered and grown. Owing to the depth of the mud in that locality, the sponge seeds that are thrown off from the mother sponge can find nothing to adhere to but the conchs which live in those waters; these, however, are insufficient in number to save the millions of seeds that are produced, and, in consequence, the waste of sponge life must be immense.

"100 of these sponges sold in 1913 for £62 1*s.* 11*d.*

"From this experiment no result was obtained, the Commissioners never reported progress, and after the buoys had broken away and the bearings of the station been lost, the Board decided to carry out another experiment in a more favourable locality, as stated in last year's report. That the Board's efforts have been successful the following extract from the inspector's visit to this station in February will conclusively prove."

EXTRACT FROM INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

"The specimen sponge that I caught on the Reserve demonstrates very clearly that the theory advanced by the Board that an abundance of shells in the current means an abundant crop of current sponge, is correct. Each sponge has a shell as a base upon which it is attached and growing. The cause for the diminution in the supply of current sponge is now clear to me and can be easily explained.

"The kid-hatchet conch (non-edible variety) abounds in the Current Mud; on these the sponge depends for existence. As the sponge is partly a parasitical growth it must find some object to which it can attach itself, or it will float off and die. The kid-hatchet supplies this need, and as the sponge increases in size and weight it destroys the conch by smothering it in the mud. Thus the kid-hatchet is prevented from increasing in number to any great extent. Fishermen who hook the sponge throw the sponge with the shell attached into their boats, and later, when cleaning the sponges, detach the shell and leave it on the beach. From the foregoing it will be noted that while the sponges are keeping the conchs from increasing by continually killing the live ones, the fishermen are keeping the sponges from increasing by removing the dead shells. The remedy for the state of things is simple:—

"(1) Distribution of shells throughout the current beds.
"(2) Prevention of the practice of carrying off both sponge and shell by the sponger.

"In corroboration of this report the inspector produced a number of sponges that were caught under his personal supervision, each one of which was growing on a shell. These specimens are in the possession of the Board, and can be seen on application to the Secretary.

"The Board proposes to scatter a considerable number of shells in the depleted beds."

SPONGE CULTURE.

"The farm at The Ferry, Little Exuma, has passed the experimental stage, as the Board has in its possession sponges of merchantable size that were grown from slips set out in March last. These developed specimens are proof beyond dispute that sponge slips, planted correctly, will survive and produce perfect sponge. Another point of interest is that in our waters growth is far more rapid than in the waters of Florida, our keenest rival in this new industry. In proof of this the Board quotes from the report of the inspector who visited the farm in February."

EXTRACT FROM INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

"On Wednesday I made a thorough inspection of the colonies of sponge planted in The Ferry waters. I found all the plants I examined in excellent condition. They apparently were in perfect health, and showed no signs of suppression or 'stunt.' I selected several specimens for exhibition, all planted in the present year (1915):—

"1. From those planted on coral in March.
"2. From those planted on discs by myself in May.
"3. From those planted by the Commissioner in July.
"4. From those planted in September.
"5. Size when planted.

"The result of my inspection is so satisfactory that I can claim with assurance that sponge farming is an unqualified success, and that the Bahamas can easily make up the deficiency of wool sponge by that means. In three years at most medium sponge (the most merchantable size) can be produced, and the quantity will be limited only by the number planted. The rate of growth is far in excess of that laid down by the American biologist, Dr. Moore, who averages the increase at eight inches per annum while the plant is under five years old. I have no scientific means of measurement, but from the cutting I have brought from the farm and the developed specimens, it will be readily seen that the increase is far in excess of the doctor's calculation.

"The Board also points out that sponge culture is spreading throughout the islands of the Lesser Antilles, and if this Colony is to maintain its place as the chief sponge market of the world, it is imperative to enlarge our cultivations and stimulate the production of sponge plants.

"The Board realizes that in their experimental operations the assistance of a biologist would prove of great benefit."

Closures.

"The Bight of Acklins is still closed, and it is not likely that the Board will open those beds for at least another year, as the reports from that reserve are not so satisfactory as in former closures."

Turtle.

"There is little to add to last year's report on this fishery. There has been no improvement in hawksbill shell, for though small quantities are being offered by itinerant vendors, the price obtained is purely speculative and therefore very small.

"The exportation of green turtle has also come to an end. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals having influenced the United States Government to make 'spanseling' an offence against their laws, the dealers are unable to ship green turtle to that country, which is our only market."

Conchs.

"Trading in shells is very limited, and the Board can repeat the statement made in their last report that the supply exceeds the demand."

Pink Pearls.

"Beyond the trifling demand among the tourists there is an absolute closure of the pearl market. Trading with foreign markets for pearls has not revived since the Board reported on that marine product last year."

Oyster Pearls.

"The introduction of the pearl oyster into our waters has been gravely considered, but the Board was unable to encourage the enterprise, owing to lack of funds. It intends, however, to take up this matter practically, in the near future, as there can be no doubt that a pearl fishery would prove a very profitable addition to our marine products."

Bêche-de-Mer.

"This edible holothurian is a gelatinous slug found in the waters of the Bahamas and is much esteemed by the Chinese. As the principal fisheries in the Pacific cannot supply the demand for this slug, there is every possibility of finding a market for it if it can be prepared in the proper manner.

"Several attempts have been made, by private firms, to establish a trade in this marine product, but, owing to imperfect knowledge of classification, correct methods of curing, and the great distance from the market (they are sold principally in Singapore, Manilla, and Hong Kong), their efforts have not been successful.

"The Board has taken up the matter, and has had several of each variety cured in the same way in which they are cured in the Eastern fisheries. These specimens will be submitted to experts in the trade, and it is hoped that one or more of them will be found suitable for export.

"If this proves to be the case the Board hopes to be able to establish a bêche-de-mer fishery, so as to instruct fishermen how to select and cure bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market."

Lands and Forests.

27. No Crown land was sold during 1915. Approximately 365,499 acres have been sold and 2,434,661 acres remain ungranted. A very large number of holdings remain unsurveyed for want of staff, and it is not the policy of the Government to sell any more Crown lands, except for building or other special purposes, until arrangements can be made for surveying the same. The Government is, however, prepared to grant leases on reasonable terms.

28. The Secretary of State has recently approved the terms on which concessions for cutting pine timber and extracting rosin and turpentine from trees on Crown land may be made, and they can be obtained on application to the Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas. There is an area of about seven square miles in New Providence on which pine trees grow, and about twenty-one square miles at Cocoa Plum Creek, Abaco. The other pine-bearing land on Abaco, as well as the right to cut timber on Andros and Grand Bahama, has been conceded for a lengthy term to an American company—the Bahamas Timber Company, Limited.

29. Shipping.

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.				Steam Vessels.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons
British ..	145	12,975	156	13,712	33	2,391	32	2,336
American ..	6	3,387	7	3,631	124	299,864	126	313,224
Norwegian ..	2	1,645	1	341	—	—	—	—
Danish ..	1	290	1	290	1	2,623	1	1,672
Cuban ..	3	261	—	—	7	15,783	3	2,329
Haitian ..	8	86	8	83	—	—	—	—
San Domingan	2	12	4	29	—	—	—	—
Dutch ..	—	—	—	—	1	2,345	1	2,345
Mexican ..	—	—	—	—	3	305	3	305
Totals ..	167	18,656	177	18,086	169	323,311	166	322,211
Totals 1914	183	21,693	173	20,448	266	609,060	262	599,561

The decreased number and tonnage of steamers is due to the fact that on the outbreak of war with Germany in August 1914 the Hamburg-American vessels, of course, ceased to call at Inagua and Long Cay for stevedores.

30. The number and tonnage of sailing vessels built in the Colony during the past five years were :—In 1913, 10 and 440 tons, in 1914, 4 and 34 tons ; and in 1915, 9 and 400 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

31. The only Bills of any importance which were passed in 1915 were the Tariff Amendment Bill, which imposed a surtax of 10 per cent. on all duties of customs ; and the Loan Bill, which empowered the Government to raise a local loan not exceeding £30,000, repayable in 20 years, at the rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent. per annum.

32. A special session of the Legislature was convened on 27th September, 1915, at which the sum of £5,000 was voted for the purpose of recruiting 100 men to be sent to Jamaica to form part of the West Indian contingent now being formed for service during the War. It is not expected, however, that more than about £3,000 will be expended.

33. The regular session was convened at an unusually early date, 22nd November, 1915, in order to allow the House an opportunity of considering what further action should be taken in response to the King's appeal for more men. The result was that the House have granted funds, or are prepared to grant funds, to keep the strength of the Bahamas detachment up to 200 men.

IV.—EDUCATION.

34. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools :—

	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
Year.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1914	51	7,904	6,670	5,350	12	981	941	691	63	8,895	7,611	6,041
1915	50	7,646	6,416	5,160	12	971	869	649	62	8,617	7,285	5,809

35. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 50 principal teachers, 8 assistant teachers, 6 pupil teachers, 186 monitors, 12 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 12 employed in aided schools.

36. The total numbers receiving primary education are 4,719 boys and 4,670 girls, compared with 4,926 boys and 4,880 girls in 1914.

37. Primary education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14 years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of twelve members (under the Chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary) appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school houses, teachers' residences, &c., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements long distances apart on the various islands, themselves separated for many miles. The average annual cost for each child on the rolls is about 14*s*. and for each child in average attendance about 21*s*.

38. The grant-aided schools received an average grant of about £27 in aid of the teachers' incomes, supplies of books and materials, and in many cases assistance in building or fitting up and furnishing school rooms, on condition that they should be unsectarian, that the teachers should pass an easy examination, and that the results produced should be fairly satisfactory. School fees are supposed to be the grant-in-aid teachers' chief income, but very few are paid in cash. Field produce and labour are the principal items, and no return of these, nor of the occasional cash payments, is ever made to the Education Department. The total amount is, however, in each case so small that, but for the grants, the schools would be closed.

39. In addition to the schools under the control of the Board, there were 29 maintained by the Church of England, six of which were in New Providence; average roll 1,377, and average attendance 749. There were also four Roman Catholic schools, total roll about 505, and 16 private schools, roll 222.

40. There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	57	38	95
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England)	10	—	10
St. Hilda's High School	16	39	55
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	9	36	45
Harbour Island	7	6	13
Total	99	119	218

41. There are now 53 school gardens, for which the Board of Agriculture furnishes seeds and other requisites, and awards prizes annually.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

42. The so-called hospital, originally established in 1809 as a poor-house, now comprises the hospital proper, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper compound.

43. The number of inmates on 1st January, 1915, was :—

	Males.	Females.
Alexandra Hospital	16	33
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary	11	10
Lunatic Asylum	13	12
Leper Asylum	2	0
Totals	42	55

44. During the year 1915 there were 665 admissions, making a total under treatment of 766, of whom 380 were discharged recovered, 134 relieved, 27 unchanged and 128 died. At the close of the year 97 remained—49 in the hospital, 21 in the infirmary, 25 lunatics, and 2 lepers.

45. The number of paupers receiving rations on the 1st January last was 461.

46. A Commission of Enquiry into the administration of the Hospital reported during the year, as a result of which certain irregularities which had been brought to light, were dealt with by the censure and transfer of the officers concerned and subsequently to their resignation from the public service.

47. During the year both the matron and the charge nurse resigned their positions, and, owing to the War and other causes, the Government were unable to fill the vacancies. The nursing has been under the care and management of two certificated nurses of the hospital.

Savings Bank.

48. During the year ended 30th June, 1915 (the Savings' Bank financial year), there were 2,871 deposits, amounting to £6,087 and 2,828, withdrawals amounting to £9,447, an excess of £3,359 of withdrawals over deposits. The number of depositors on that date was 2,434, including 584 dead and unclaimed accounts. The balance due to depositors was £23,833.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

Police.

49. The strength of the Force on 31st December, 1915, was :—

Officer	1
Rank and file	82
Constable, Board of Education ..	1
Total	84

Prisons.

50. 119 males, 62 females, and 25 juveniles (206 persons in all), were committed to prison during the year.

The admissions for the preceding year were 187.

51. The daily average of prisoners was 59·89, of whom 45·02 were males, 8·26 females, and 6·6 juveniles.

The daily average number for the preceding year was 55·71.

52. The following punishments were inflicted on prisoners undergoing sentences :—Solitary confinement, 39 ; reversion of diet, 160 ; forfeiture of industrial marks, 1 ; whipping juveniles with birch, 13 ; total, 203.

The total number of punishments in the preceding year was 156.

Punishment by reversion of diet is approved by the medical officer before being carried into effect. There was no punishment by flogging with the "cat."

53. Nine prisoners completed their sentences and were discharged under the Industrial Marks Rules, by which adult prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for periods of one year or upwards may earn a reduction of one-fourth of their sentences. There were no escapes.

54. The general health of the prisoners has been reported "good" by the medical officer, and the sanitary condition of the institution "excellent."

Criminal Statistics.

55. In 1915 the number of persons brought before the magistrates was 2,357, and there were 1,801 summary convictions and 15 convictions in the Superior Courts. These numbers are below the average.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

56. The births in 1915 numbered 2,424, as against 1,939 in 1914. The deaths were 1,130, as against 1,367. Birth-rate 43·3 and death-rate 20·1 per 1,000.

57. The estimated population on 1st January, 1915, was 55,639. During the year there were 2,429 births and 1,130 deaths, while the immigrants exceeded the emigrants by 1,191. On this basis, the estimated population on 1st January, 1916, is 58,129.

58. The public health of the Colony has on the whole been good, no serious epidemic having occurred.

59. Conditions as regards the water supply from wells, commented on in the last report, remain unchanged, and no further action can be taken at present, owing to financial considerations.

Meteorological Statistics.

60. The following are the meteorological data for the past three years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
1913	77·0	79·0	78·1	86·4	67·1	91·0	63·5	39·96
1914	76·3	80·3	77·4	80·8	72·0	86·2	64·4	54·32
1915	76·0	78·5	72·2	81·0	71·9	86·0	66·6	49·10

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

61. The postal revenue for 1915–1916 was £3,417, as compared with £3,470 in the previous year, showing a decrease of £53. The expenditure was £1,086, as compared with £1,005 in 1915–1916, a net increase of £81. In addition to this there are the foreign and inter-insular mail subsidies, amounting to about £12,700 a year. The total number of postal packets (exclusive of parcels) received and despatched was 921,547; the decrease of 107,630 as compared with the previous year was due partly to a lesser number of foreign letters and newspapers, and books. 3,078 money orders, value £4,271, were issued, an increase of 308 in number and a decrease in value of £693. 816 money orders, value £2,110, were paid, a decrease of 32 in number and £460 in value. 2,564 postal orders, value £1,039, were sold, and 640, value £337, paid, a decrease of 511 in number, and value £183, in orders sold, and of 64 in number, value £35, in orders paid.

62. Owing to the irregularity in the performance of the mail, passenger, and freight service between Miami and Nassau by the Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company, and the Florida East Coast Railway Company, the Government was obliged to terminate the contract, and temporary arrangements were made with the same company for a bi-weekly service between Nassau and Mayport, Jacksonville during the winter season.

Telegraphs.

63. During the year 1915 the sole means of telegraph communication was by radio, and the station of the Marconi Company at Miami, Florida, was at first used as a relay station for our traffic.

64. On March 15th the above Company increased its rate from threepence to sixpence per word on Nassau messages, and the business was transferred to the Jupiter Florida station of the United States Navy Radio System, and, later, to the high-power navy station at Key West, Florida, at the rate of threepence per word. The change in working from Miami Marconi to the Key West station resulted in a saving of over £600 for the year.

65. The attention and service of the Key West station were all that could be desired, and on account of the high power of that station there were but three days during the entire year on which atmospheric electricity prevented working. There were no accidents to machinery, or interruption to service at our station during the year.

66. As a result of twelve months continuous working by Radio, and during a year in which business was far greater than in any previous year, it is satisfactory to be able to again report that wireless has proved a very excellent substitute for the broken cable between Nassau and Florida.

67. Since the middle of October our station has been in communication twice daily with a station in Jamaica, and communication with ships at sea has been frequent and reliable.

68. The revenue £3,296 8*s*. 8*d*. (of which £43 2*s*. 5*d*. was for business with ships at sea) exceeded by £1,120 11*s*. 8*d*. the revenue for any previous year.

Telephones.

69. The installation of the new switchboard with accommodation for 600 subscribers, and the removal of the telephone exchange to the new building provided were speedily and successfully accomplished with resultant increased efficiency in the working of the system and decidedly more comfortable quarters and conveniences for the operators.

70. During the year 39 new subscribers were taken on, making a total of 359 stations now on the system.

Electric Light.

71. There are now 443 subscribers, with 6,586 lights, and 276 street lights, and no additional supply of electricity for lighting can be supplied until machinery of greater capacity is provided.

IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Foreign Labour.

72. Formerly men were employed as stevedores on the Hamburg-American Line and others, but this ceased at the outbreak of war.

73. In 1915 the G. D. Emery Company employed 185 men from Inagua to load timber at Central American ports, wages 50 cents a day and 10 cents per hour overtime. All these returned during the year. At Long Cay there were no engagements for service out of the Colony, but two men returned from such service.

Improvement of Nassau Harbour.

74. A report of Messrs. Coode, Matthews, Fitzmaurice and Wilson, consulting engineers to the Crown agents, was received during the year dealing with schemes for the deepening of Nassau Harbour so as to admit steamers drawing 30 feet, but the estimated cost is so great as to be entirely beyond the means of the Colony, at any rate during the continuance of the War.

The Development of the Colony.

75. I append extracts from the Report of the Development Board

"At the close of the second year of its operations the Board is pleased to be able to report that steady and satisfactory progress has been made in its efforts to advertise the attractions of the Colony.

"The conditions created by the War and other reasons made it impossible for the Board to take any further steps for the establishment of a steamship service between the port of Jacksonville and Nassau. The history of the Board's early efforts in this direction is set out in last year's report and the Board still adhere to the opinion expressed in that report that Jacksonville is of importance to the Colony, not merely from a tourist standpoint, but also for the development of a trade with the United States in fruit and green truck generally. Unforeseen and regrettable circumstances to which reference is made in the later part of this report, unexpectedly resulted in the establishment of a service between Mayport (Jacksonville) and Nassau, at a late period of the season, and although a considerable quantity of tomatoes have been shipped by that route and some tourists have been brought to and taken from the Colony by it, the Board is not in a position to say that the service has proved entirely satisfactory.

"At the commencement of the season a distinct blow was struck at the tourist prospects by the failure of the Florida East Coast Railway Company adequately to perform their contract with this Government, in maintaining a steamship service with the port of Miami. The steamship 'Miami' went aground at Miami and remained there for such a considerable time that several of the scheduled trips had to be abandoned. The circumstances are so well known that it is unnecessary to repeat them in detail. It suffices to say that, owing to the unsatisfactory conditions, the Government was compelled to cancel the contract, and the Colony has lost many visitors who would undoubtedly have come to Nassau if any reliance could have been placed on the regular running of the steamship 'Miami.' As a consequence of this failure some of the tours arranged by the Raymond and Whitcomb Company had to be abandoned. Faced with this difficulty, the Government was driven to make the best arrangements possible, as the season was well under way, and the provision was made for a temporary service between Nassau and Mayport (Jacksonville). It cannot be said that this service has proved entirely suitable. In the nature of things it could hardly be expected that it would be so. Whatever efforts may have

been made by the Florida East Coast Railway Company to effectively advertise this service, it has not produced many tourists. It is exceedingly doubtful, in the opinion of the Board, whether the 'Miami' is a suitable vessel for such a service. Many people entertain the opinion that she is quite unsuitable. The Mayport connection has been of some benefit to commercial interests, and a fairly large quantity of tomatoes were shipped to Jacksonville by this route. Mayport cannot be said to be a very desirable port, and the fact that the steamer did not dock at Jacksonville was to some extent a factor militating against the success of the experiment.

"The total number of passengers brought by the steamship 'Miami' during the season was 452. Of this number, 168 came from the port of Miami on the few occasions the 'Miami' succeeded in making a trip from that port. Fifteen trips from Mayport to Nassau produced 284 tourists. The 'Miami' took away from Nassau 556 tourists. It will be seen that the Colony has had to rely very largely on the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company for the volume of tourist traffic which it obtained. Owing to the War, and the consequent shortage of tonnage and other circumstances, no excursion steamers visited Nassau during the season, and the absence of this feature has proved a distinct loss to commercial interests. Several private yachts owned by well-known owners visited this port."

76. Mr. Oscar F. Howard, who is on the staff of one of the leading New York papers and is a well known journalist and artist, spent some time in Nassau, and there is every reason to believe that his articles on Bahamian subjects will be productive of benefit.

77. A country club, known as the Bahamas Racing and Country Club, Limited, has been incorporated and land acquired for the purpose of providing further attractions for visitors to Nassau.

Effect of the War upon the Colony.

78. It may be said that during the year the Colony felt the effect of the War hardly at all. The exports of sponge and sisal were high and prices good; the cultivation of tomatoes for export was far beyond the average and the general condition of the people cannot be said to be unsatisfactory. Only in Inagua and Long Cay has there been hardship, due to the cessation of the stevedore traffic, which used to be carried on by the German steamers. Imports have been larger than was anticipated.

Tourists.

79. The number of tourists visiting Nassau during the past season exceeded the number in the previous year, the major part coming direct from New York by the fast passenger steamers of the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company.

80. The Royal Victoria Hotel, formerly the property of the Colony, but now owned by the Florida East Coast Hotel Company, which had been closed for many years, was opened, thus providing increased accommodation for visitors.

War Contingent.

81. A War Contingent was raised by voluntary enlistments for service at the front, to be kept up at a strength of 200 men, funds having been provided for the purpose by votes of the Legislature and subscriptions from the people in the Colony, who generously responded.

82. The first draft of 30 men embarked on the 9th September, 1915, for Jamaica, *en route* to England, followed subsequently on the 25th November of the same year and the 10th May, 1916, by drafts of 105 and 65, respectively, making the total of 200 men for the Bahamas Unit. The Colony has undertaken to send drafts to fill up vacancies in the ranks, and, on the 10th May the draft for January together with six men on account of the draft for February embarked.

Emigration to Florida.

83. The figures for the past three years are as follows :—

Year.	Out.			In.			Excess of Outs.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1913 ..	2,547	875	3,422	1,779	617	2,396	768	258	1,026
1914 ..	2,806	952	3,758	2,302	757	3,059	504	195	699
1915 ..	1,008	503	1,511	1,959	743	2,702	—	—	—
Totals.	6,361	2,330	8,691	6,040	2,117	8,157	1,272	453	1,725

84. It will be seen that in 1915, 1,191 more people returned to the Colony than left it, due mainly, it is understood, to decreased rates of wages in Florida.

The figures from 1st January to 31st March, 1916, were :—

Out : Males, 334 ; females, 122. Total, 456.

In : Males, 154 ; females, 80. Total, 234.

Administration.

85. Mr. (now Sir William) Allardyce, K.C.M.G., arrived from the Falkland Islands on the 15th June, and assumed the government. From 1st January, 1915, to that date, the government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G.

T. E. D. Brace,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

25th August, 1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
862	Straits Settlements	1914
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
864	Ashanti	,,
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	,,
867	Somaliland	,,
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
871	Barbados	,,
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	,,
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	,,
881	East Africa Protectorate	,,
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	,,
887	Fiji	,,
888	Sierra Leone	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
890	Gambia	,,
891	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
892	Hong Kong	,,
893	Ashanti	,,
894	Gold Coast	,,
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	,,
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 932.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1916-17.

(For Report for 1915–16 see No. 900.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1917.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LTD., LONDON, W.C. 2.

1917.

[Cd. 8434-19] *Price 2d. net.*

CONTENTS.

		PAGE
I.	FINANCIAL	4
II.	TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES	5
III.	LEGISLATION	13
IV.	EDUCATION	14
V.	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	15
VI.	VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH	16
VII.	POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH	17
VIII.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	18

A SKETCH MAP will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 849: [Cd. 7622–40.]

No. 932.

BAHAMAS

(For Report for 1915–16 see No. 900.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bahamas,
14th August, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Colonial Secretary's Annual Report for 1916–17.

I have, &c.,
W. L. ALLARDYCE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Walter H. Long, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(C397); Wt.47019/1099. 1000 & 90. 10.17. B.&F.,Ltd. Gp.11/2

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Note.—The figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1917, with trade and customs for the year ended 31st December, 1916 (as desired by the Board of Trade).

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £90,472, as compared with £86,251 in 1915–1916 ("Crown" revenue not included). Of this £76,665 was derived from Customs duties—an increase of £5,507 on the previous year.

2. The expenditure was £97,213, as against £90,925 in 1915–16. The increase was mainly due to expenditure on the Bahamas contingent for the British West Indies Regiment.

3. At the close of the year, there was a credit balance of some £4,600, exclusive of £4,370 advanced to the Post Office Savings Bank.

4. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1917, was £43,623, as against £44,470 on 31st March, 1916.

5. The Public Debt (other than the debt incurred under the Loan Act, 1915), bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent., was originally £113,126 and now stands at £28,209. The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580, and the debt should be wholly liquidated in 1926.

6. A Loan of £30,000 was raised, under an Act of 1915, repayable in 20 years—interest 5 per cent. Of this, £25,000 in £100 debentures was taken by the Royal Bank of Canada, and £5,000 by the Bank of Nassau. The annual charge for interest and sinking fund is £2,407.

7. The Bank of Nassau having found itself in difficulties, application was made to the Court for the appointment of an Interim Receiver with certain limited powers. The assets have been bought by the Royal Bank of Canada, and all depositors are being paid off in full. Their note issue (£1 and 4*s.* notes) of £6,500, which is guaranteed by the Government, has been called in and is being redeemed. The Government is considering the question of issuing currency notes.

8. The Royal Bank of Canada established a branch here in 1908—it now carries the Government account, the Bank of Nassau having ceased to do business. On 31st March, 1917, it had in the Colony deposits amounting to £156,617.

9. The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold. American gold and silver certificates are not legal tender but are accepted, if of 5 dollars and upwards, at the same rate as American gold; if below 1 dollar, at the rate of 4*s.* to the dollar. British currency notes of the £1 and 10*s.* denominations are in circulation to the extent of some £30,000. There is reason to believe that large amounts of silver are being hoarded in the out-islands.

10. The revenue for 1917–18 is estimated at £95,250—£76,000 of which is Customs and £5,250 estimated proceeds from 1st July, 1917,

to 31st March, 1918, of the new export tax of one farthing a pound on sisal. The expenditure is put at £103,000 but may well be more as expenditure on account of the drafts for the War contingent grows.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

11. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1916, were valued at £475,067 (including £8,900 coin), an increase of £111,657 over the previous year. Although there were slightly increased importations of practically all the principal commodities, the great advance in the cost of goods consequent on the War must be taken into account.

12. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade, the imports were :—

Headings.	*America.*		*United Kingdom.*		*Other Countries.*		*Total.*	
	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, Food, Drink & Narcotics	141,632	196,987	20,939	16,927	18,574	22,156	181,145	236,070
2. RawMaterials, Other.. ..	10,361	13,369	1,385	20	850	11	12,596	13,400
3. Manufactured Materials:								
Textiles ..	50,035	70,177	23,075	27,707	1,985	1,932	75,095	99,816
Metal ..	33,771	55,416	6,212	3,803	180	121	40,163	59,340
Other ..	47,170	51,617	6,969	5,679	272	245	54,411	57,541
4. Specie ..	—	2,050	—	700	—	6,150	—	8,900
Total .. £	282,969	389,616	58,580	54,836	21,861	30,615	363,410	475,067

13. The share of the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries in the import trade for the past four years is summarised as follows by the Comptroller of Customs, who has also furnished the other interesting data recorded in this section of my report :—

	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom ..	91,124	22·6	77,133	21·0	58,580	16·1	54,836	11·5
Canada ..	6,777	1·7	5,842	1·6	3,714	1·0	2,130	0·5
British Possessions ..	5,555	1·4	7,576	2·1	13,687	3·8	18,824	4·0
America ..	288,577	71·5	266,963	72·6	282,969	77·9	389,616	82·0
Other Countries ..	11,496	2·8	10,010	2·7	4,460	1·2	9,661	2·0
Total ..	£403,529		£367,524		£363,410		£475,067	

The decrease in trade with the United Kingdom is due to the high freight rates and to the advance in cost of goods in consequence of the War. The figures shown for Canada are misleading for the reason that all Canadian goods go through America which is credited as the country of origin, unless the entries specifically designate Canada. The trade of other British possessions is that of Jamaica, from which come regular supplies of rum and sugar.

Trade with other countries appears to have improved, but this was really due to one shipment of a little over six thousand pounds in specie from Cuba. Holland is the only country in Europe with which any trade to speak of is now carried on—gin and small quantities of tobacco being the only commodities imported.

Of the total value of imports for the year the value of *ad valorem* totalled £205,289, or 43.2 per cent.; specific, £198,298, or 41.8 per cent.; and free, £71,480, or 15 per cent.

EXPORTS.

14. The value of exports was £332,679, as against £243,431 in 1915, an increase of £89,248. This increase was made up as follows:—

	£
Produce of the Colony	87,631
Re-exports	1,617
Increase	£89,248

15. The two years grouped under the Board of Trade classification are as follows:—

	1915. £	1916. £	Increase.
Class 1.—Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics ..	11,581	20,207	8,626
Class 2.—Raw Materials ..	225,981	304,508	78,527
Class 3.—Manufactured Articles	5,869	7,964	2,095
Class 4.—Specie	—	—	—
Total	£234,431	£332,679	£89,248

16. The small cocoa nut and salt industries revived somewhat during last year. Preserved pineapples, grape-fruit, and tomatoes showed steady increases in quantity and value. Sponge showed satisfactory increases particularly in the better grades, wool and velvet, both in quantity and value. Hardhead and reef decreased in value but increased in quantity. Shipments of grass fell off owing to excessive Atlantic freight rates from New York. The total sponge output for the year was 1,317,622 lb., valued at £136,551. Exports of sisal have steadily increased and amounted to 8,369,245 lb., at a value of £114,465, showing a substantial increase of over £41,800. The increase of 863,105 feet of lumber is the highest on record. The total export for the year was 7,515,190 feet. The early months of the year were marked by a brisk trade in logwood, resulting in the exportation of several shipments at the value of £16,160.

17. The following table shows the direction of the export trade for each of the last four years :—

	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom ..	37,738	14·2	35,822	16·0	54,174	22·3	41,944	12·6
America ..	124,488	47·2	111,124	49·7	145,073	59·6	217,643	65·4
Canada ..	1,861	0·7	1,702	0·8	2,229	0·9	5,514	1·7
Brit. West Indies ..	502	0·2	323	0·2	484	0·2	945	0·3
Holland ..	18,323	6·9	12,394	5·6	6,885	2·8	14,058	4·2
Germany ..	32,194	14·5	20,881	9·3	—	—	—	—
France ..	22,284	8·5	17,594	7·9	9,145	3·8	20,425	6·1
Cuba ..	20,138	7·6	23,109	10·3	22,754	9·3	29,220	8·8
Other Countries ..	426	0·2	542	0·2	2,687	1·1	2,930	0·9
Total ..	£263,954		£223,491		£243,431		£332,679	

The exports to the United Kingdom were £12,280, or 9·7 per cent. less than for the previous year, the falling off being due almost entirely to the decrease in the quantity of sponge sent to that market. The products sent were :—

	lb.	£
Sponge	371,307 ..	39,561
Cotton	9,288 ..	184
Tortoise Shells	1,902 ..	1,416
Conch „	4,070 ..	106

Exports to the United States of America, the chief market for the Colony's products, amounted to £217,643, or 65·4 per cent. of the total exports, an increase of £72,570, or 5·8 per cent. over last year. The chief exports were :—

			£
Bahamas Hemp (Sisal)	8,592,940	lb. ..	115,727
Sponge	363,983	„ ..	56,921
Pineapples (presvd.) ..	29,734	Cases ..	8,480
Tomatoes	47,487	Bushels ..	5,640
Grape-Fruit	485,715	(No.) ..	1,075
Barks	—	(Val.) ..	1,759

Exports to Canada showed an increase of £3,285, being the biggest for years past. Products shipped chiefly were :—

			£
Sponge	13,929	lb. ..	2,003
Pineapples (presvd.).. ..	9,076	Cases ..	2,503
Hides and Skins	274	(No.) ..	274

France and Holland showed amazing increases, entirely of sponge, over last year's takings. The exports for the two years were :—

	1915.		1916.		Increase.
	lb.	£	lb.	£	£
France ..	66,882 ..	9,145	123,041 ..	20,219	11,074
Holland ..	57,464 ..	6,885	117,391 ..	13,613	6,728

Cuba took 7,444,690 feet of lumber valued at £29,220, an increase of 911,505 feet (£6,466)—the highest on record.

18. The total trade of the Colony for the last six years was as follows:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1911 ..	308,726 ..	209,251 ..	517,977
1912 ..	357,808 ..	276,115 ..	633,923
1913 ..	398,244 ..	263,954 ..	662,198
1914 ..	367,524 ..	223,491 ..	591,015
1915 ..	363,410 ..	243,431 ..	606,841
1916 ..	475,067 ..	332,679 ..	807,746

The total increase of trade was £200,905, as compared with 1915.

19. The nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared were as follows:—

Entered.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	30	3,911	158	13,071	188	16,982
Cuban	6	14,164	—	—	6	14,164
Danish ..	2	2,201	—	—	2	2,201
Norwegian ..	1	660	—	—	1	660
America, U.S.	148	336,762	23	4,281	171	341,043
Haitien ..	—	—	3	31	3	31
San Domingan	—	—	2	16	2	16
S. American ..	—	—	1	43	1	43
Total ..	187	357,698	187	17,442	374	375,140
Total, 1915..	169	323,311	167	18,656	336	341,967

Cleared.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	31	3,968	164	14,137	195	18,105
Cuban	1	1,186	—	—	1	1,186
Danish ..	2	2,201	—	—	2	2,201
Norwegian ..	1	660	—	—	1	660
American, U.S.	151	349,016	21	4,010	172	353,026
Haitien ..	—	—	5	66	5	66
Mexican ..	—	—	1	130	1	130
San Domingan	—	—	2	16	2	16
S. American ..	—	—	1	43	1	43
Total ..	186	357,031	194	18,402	380	375,433
Total, 1915..	166	322,211	177	18,086	343	340,297

20. The numbers and tonnage of sailing vessels built and registered in the Colony during the last five years:—

In 1912	.. .. ..	2 and 22	tons.
„ 1913	.. .. ..	10 „ 440	„
„ 1914	.. .. ..	4 „ 34	„
„ 1915	.. .. ..	9 „ 400	„
„ 1916	.. .. ..	4 „ 72	„

AGRICULTURE.

21. I subjoin extracts from the report of the Agricultural Board:—

"*Citrus Fruit.*—A disease, the spiny citrus whitefly (*Aleurocanthus woglumi*), was discovered in Nassau in the early part of the year. The Plants Protection Act, 1916, was passed and put into force in September, 1916. Spraying operations commenced in October on a small scale, but gradually increased until the beginning of January, when the Board decided to discontinue them, some 10,000 trees having been sprayed, because it was considered that the results were not sufficient to warrant further expenditure and that spraying alone was not sufficient. Trees, shrubs, fruit, etc., from Nassau to the Out-Islands were quarantined and various Inspectors were appointed. To revive the citrus industry the Board has started a small Nursery at the Botanic Station. The foreign market for grape-fruit was not very bright. The usual quantity was not shipped and the fruit were also very small last season.

"*Coconuts.*—Some thousand or so sprouted seed coconuts have been distributed by the Board. The Board considers it wise to encourage such an industry.

"*Corn.*—This crop has not altogether been a success. In various places large areas were put under cultivation but owing to the drought this staple product has run short.

"*Onions.*—The prices paid for onions have been enormous. Imported onions have been scarce and this has encouraged the people greatly.

"*Pineapples.*—The Board have supplied their contracted cultivators with the necessary fertilisers. The first crop from the slips supplied by the Board will soon be gathered. Reports show that the plants are shooting splendidly but the drought will have serious results. All future imported slips are prohibited so as to prevent the introduction of any disease, as reports have been received of the pineapple weevil being in Cuba and Jamaica.

"*Sisal.*—The cultivation of the sisal plant and the production of the fibre have increased rapidly, high prices having been the attraction. Many people have planted all the slips they could lay their hands on and are cultivating many acres of it. This industry has been a boon to the people in this war time and has been feverishly pursued. The attention of the Board has been called to a ruinous practice called 'Plugging,' that is, the leaf and stem are dug out from the trunk to obtain as much fibre as possible, thus leaving it bare to all weather. This has been discouraged as much as possible, but, unfortunately, compulsory methods cannot be taken for lack of legal powers.

"*Tomatoes.*—This product has been produced in smaller quantities than last year. Market prices have been favourable all through the season and in March, 1917, as much as $4.50 per crate was being realised, which is an almost unprecedented value.

[*Note by Colonial Secretary*:—47,487 bushels, value £5,640, were exported (all to America), as against 27,063 bushels, value £3,366, in 1915.]

"*Vegetables generally.*—The Board has imported the usual annual amount of seeds this year. Growers of vegetables in Nassau have done well and the local market has been regularly supplied.

"*Agricultural Education.*—According to the Inspector of Schools' Report, progress has been made in this line. Many of the schools have

done well with their gardens. As an encouragement prizes have been given by the Board to different schools, also the seed and tools. The Board of Education has co-operated with the Board of Agriculture in a united effort to interest the schools."

As regards sisal—if it is to hold its own in foreign markets—it would appear to be most desirable that legislation should be introduced providing for Government inspection and grading so as to minimise as much as possible the practice of exporting immature, wet, and badly cleaned fibre.

Fisheries.

22. The Marine Products Board reports as follows :—

"That the revival in the sponge trade noted in last year's report has been maintained is fully proved by this year's sales on the Nassau Exchanges, which have reached the unrivalled sum of £113,300, an increase of nearly £14,000 over 1913, which had hitherto been the heaviest year recorded by the Board.

"That the market has been stimulated by war conditions is unquestionably true, and there can be no doubt that the military restrictions in the Mediterranean Sea have seriously interfered with sponging in that area, and sponge dealers abroad have had to place larger orders in our market. It is to be regretted that we were not in a position to supply sufficient of certain kinds of sponge required for the trade, owing to our fine sponge fields being few, limited and over-reaped.

"One of the important and interesting incidents in the year's work was the Secretary's visit to the Chase Sponge Farm at Sugar Loaf Cay, Florida. His observations of the Chase Farm leave no room for doubt that sponge culture is not only feasible but profitable, and it is as well to remind the Legislature again that sponge farming is becoming an object of interest to the business world, and the probabilities are that it will soon be classed among the regular industries of the tropics. and therefore should be carried on extensively by the Board with the object of replenishing depleted sponging grounds; but at the present, owing to limited funds, the Board is only able to demonstrate in a small way as at the Ferry Farm, Exuma, that sponge can be grown successfully in the Bahamas.

"Pursuing the course outlined in the report for the previous year, the Board has scattered 85,000 shells in the current beds. This quantity is by no means sufficient to restore these beds to their former condition and enable the sponger to bring to market once more cargoes of the most valuable sponge found in the Colony. However, by means of a closed period of these beds and considerably more shells scattered the Board expects to see these results achieved.

"The Board realises that sponge, a marine product of the Colony, is the chief source of revenue, and that in the absence of scientific knowledge they are unable to say if this important industry can be maintained under the present system of practically indiscriminate fishing. And the House of Assembly should decide at once if, in their opinion, £300 per annum is sufficient to spend on the protection and fostering of the chief industry of the Colony, on which so large a capital is now invested by the merchants here. Also there are other marine products now lying dormant which would provide considerable revenue if handled scientifically, which however the Board is unable to do, owing to their limited funds.

"The turtle industry has not revived. There has, however, been more trading in shell this year than in any year during the War, but the business is too small to call for any detailed report.

"Trading in conch shells is still restricted, owing to increased cost of freight to Europe, which was the principal market at the time war was declared.

"Business in pink pearls is, if anything, worse than ever, owing to the poor winter season experienced. Very few tourists on whom we have to rely at present for the sale of this commodity visited the Island.

"With regard to bêche de mer since last year's report a statement has been received from Mr. Loxley & Co., of Hong Kong, which gave the

Board much satisfaction. Not only are bêche de mer in demand, but the prices obtainable are very remunerative.

"Through the kindness of the Governor, the Board was placed in possession of a very fine lot of bêche de mer prepared for the Chinese market. These specimens were sent to His Excellency from Hong Kong, and serve as an object lesson of what marketable bêche de mer are. Since then the Board has had experiments made, and has succeeded in securing a number of bêche de mer cured almost in the same manner as the Chinese samples.

"The main difficulties to be overcome are (1) the light weight, (2) the extreme hardness of the native cured fish. The Chinese cured fish are heavy, fleshy and pliable as rubber. The lot cured by Mr. Lowe which has been despatched to Hong Kong is as near to the Chinese fish as we have got. The Board anxiously awaits the verdict of the experts to whom they have been submitted. But, as in other matters, it is impossible to carry on experimental work without scientific assistance."

Salt.

23. In olden days salt-raking at Inagua was a very important industry and brought in considerable revenue to the Crown by way of royalties. The business was run by an American company and in one year alone three million bushels were exported. It is much to be desired that capital and energy should be attracted with the view of reopening this trade. A despatch dealing fully with the whole subject was addressed by the Governor to the Secretary of State last year.

There are also salt pans in other islands—Rum Cay, Long Cay, Long Island, Ragged Island, and Exuma.

The Out-Islands.

24. The following is a brief résumé of the reports of the Out-Island Commissioners:—

Abaco.—In the Green Turtle Cay district, the sisal factory at Little Abaco shipped some 90,000 lb. of fibre, valued at £1,254. There were nine sugar-cane mills producing 2,554 gallons, value £383.

Sisal not enough cultivated.

Suitable coconut land is limited.

Andros.—There were many forest fires destroying much valuable hard wood.

The coconut planting is reviving, but suitable land is not very plentiful. "We won't live to see them bear fruit" is an argument often used by the people. Proedial larceny is very common.

The land crab is a great drawback to farming.

Biminis.—Nil.

Exuma.—The people are landless or land poor. There are thousands of acres of undeveloped land.

There was a boom in logwood for export.

Eleuthera.—In the Governor's harbour district, tomatoes were largely cultivated for export, but a good deal of immature fruit was shipped. Pineapple cultivation improved, but too costly to produce profitably. The canning factory only put out 10,000 cases—43,000 dozen fruit, value £3,250.

In the Rock Sound district there was a great boom in sisal. Heavy rains destroyed young tomatoes and other produce.

Grand Bahama.—Nil.

Harbour Island.—Sisal, pineapple, and coconut cultivations increasing. Baltimore (U.S.A.) is prepared to buy pineapples again. At Spanish Wells there is ideal ground for coconuts.

Florida now supplies oranges to the Southern States of America which were formerly supplied from the Bahamas.

Inagua.—The stevedore traffic on German steamers has, of course, vanished since the War, but seven steamers of the Raporel Line and one of the Emery Line called for stevedores.

There is a small boat trade with Hayti taking fish and conchs and bringing vegetables and fruit.

20,000 bushels of salt were sent to Jamaica.

The rainfall for the year was only 8·74 inches!

A large island included in the Inagua district is Mayaguama. It has good land: rarely visited by Commissioner on account of distance and difficulty of access. It has no school, nor any agent of Government beyond a coloured local constable. Nevertheless, it is one of the most law-abiding settlements in the Colony.

Long Cay or Fortune Island.—This was also a centre of German stevedore traffic. Now only about 200 people are left at Long Cay proper, which is the seat of Government, but over 2,000 in the adjoining islands of Acklins and Crooked.

Much sisal in those islands. Cave earth largely used as fertiliser. 50,000 lb. of cascarilla bark exported. No progress in coconut cultivation on account of absence of seed nuts. Provision crops killed by drought.

Long Island.—This is an agricultural and pastoral island, not suited for coconuts.

Ragged Island.—Has small trade with Haiti. Schooners from Nassau to Jamaica call for salt. Some industry in straw hats and other palmetto goods.

Rum Cay.—Sisal cultivation much increased. Tomato cultivation discontinued on account of deficient transport. Salt more or less abandoned. Ground produce destroyed by floods.

San Salvador or Cat Island.—In the Arthur's Town district, large ground crops planted. Sea-weed used as fertiliser. Much emigration to Florida. Although emigrants may or should learn better agricultural methods in Florida, they never practise them on return; the prevailing sentiment being, "Take no thought for the morrow."

From the Bight district—more than 1,000,000 lb. of sisal sent to Nassau. There was a strong demand for logwood but transport was bad and prices fell. The people have been urged not to sell a grain of corn but to keep it for seed.

Watlings Island (the landfall of Columbus).—Large increase in sisal and other cultivations; much damage done by rats.

Manufactories.

25. *Pineapple canning factories.*—The export of tinned pineapples during the last five years:—

In 1912	..	27,536	cases, valued at	£5,175
„ 1913	..	31,192	„ „ „	6,208
„ 1914	..	33,070	„ „ „	7,535
„ 1915	..	21,756	„ „ „	5,550
„ 1916	..	38,807	„ „ „	10,983

Lumber mills.—The American Company at Abaco milled 9,000,000 feet of pine, most of which went to Cuba. A daily average of 375 men was employed and the wages bill amounted to £28,000.

The Company has lately suspended operations and is re-exporting under Government licence, for sale in America and Cuba, all its machinery, rails, etc. It is expected, however, that the Company will resume operations later on with smaller mills and under more economical management.

Lands and Forests.

26. No Crown land was sold during 1916. Approximately 366,000 acres have been sold and 2,434,000 acres remain ungranted. A very large number of holdings remain unsurveyed for want of staff, but two additional surveyors are now reducing arrears. It is not the policy of the Government to sell any more Crown lands, except for building or other special purposes, until arrangements can be made for surveying the same. The Government is, however, prepared to grant leases on reasonable terms.

The terms on which concessions for cutting pine timber and extracting rosin and turpentine from trees on Crown land may be made can be obtained on application to the Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas. There is an area of about seven square miles in New Providence on which pine trees grow, and about 21 square miles at Cocoa Plum Creek, Abaco. The other pine-bearing land on Abaco, as well as the right to cut timber on Andros and Grand Bahama, was conceded some years ago for a lengthy term to an American company —the Bahamas Timber Company, Limited, of Minneapolis.

III.—LEGISLATION.

27. The only legislation to which attention need be drawn is the War Contingent Act, and in regard to this Act I append an extract from the report of Mr. Harcourt Malcolm, K.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Honorary Corresponding Secretary of the Society of Comparative Legislation.

"The War Contingent Act provides for the raising of a contingent of 200 men to assist and form part of His Majesty's regular and Imperial forces during the present War and for maintaining the effective strength of such contingent at that number. Liberal provision is made for the payment of separation and other allowances, pensions, and gratuities in connection with such contingent. The scales of pensions, gratuities and disability allowances are those fixed from time to time under the Imperial Army Act or the King's Regulations with reference to the West India Regiment. Return passages from England or Jamaica to the Colony are provided for. The Governor has power to appoint a fit and proper person fully and effectually to carry out under his directions the provisions of the Act and to confer upon any such person such military rank and title as he may deem necessary. An itemised return of all payments made under the Act must be laid on the table of the House of Assembly, within thirty days after the close of the financial year. 'Dependant' means and includes wife, parent or grandparent and child—in the case of a girl up to 16 years and of a boy up to 14. 'Child' includes an illegitimate child."

IV.—EDUCATION.

28.—The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools.

Year.	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1915	50	7,646	6,416	5,160	12	971	869	649	62	8,617	7,285	5,809
1916	51	8,097	6,470	5,184	12	907	779	600	63	9,004	7,249	5,784

The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 48 principal teachers, 4 acting teachers, 8 assistant teachers, 5 pupil teachers, 175 monitors, 12 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 12 employed in aided schools.

The total numbers receiving primary education are 3,804 boys and 3,445 girls, compared with 4,719 boys and 4,670 girls in 1915.

Primary education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14 years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of 12 members (under the chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary) appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school houses, teachers' residences, etc., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements long distances apart on the various islands, themselves separated for many miles. The average annual cost for each child on the rolls is about 14*s.* 3*d.*, and for each child in average attendance about 22*s.* 2*d.*

The grant-aided schools received an average grant of about £25 in aid of the teachers' incomes, supplies of books and materials, and in many cases assistance in building or fitting up and furnishing school rooms, on condition that they should be unsectarian, that the teachers should pass an easy examination, and that the results produced should be fairly satisfactory. School fees are supposed to be the grant-in-aid teachers' chief income, but very few are paid in cash. Field produce and labour are the principal items, and no return of these, nor of the occasional cash payments, is ever made to the Education Department. The total amount is, however, in each case so small that, but for the grants, the schools would be closed.

In addition to the schools under the control of the Board, there were 23 maintained by the Church of England, 5 of which were in New Providence: average roll, 1089, and average attendance, 576. There were also 4 Roman Catholic Schools, total roll about 408, and 11 private schools, roll, 199.

There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	69	51	120
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England)	14	—	14
St. Hilda's High School	19	46	65
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	15	31	46
Total	117	128	245

There are some 50 school gardens, for which the Board of Agriculture furnishes seeds and other requisites, and awards prizes annually.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

29. The so-called hospital (originally established in 1809 as a poor-house) has for a very long time comprised the hospital proper, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper wards.

The number of inmates on 1st January, 1916, was:—

	Males.	Females.
Alexandra Hospital	16	33
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary	11	10
Lunatic Asylum	13	12
Leper Wards	2	—
Totals	42	55

During the year 1916, there were 707 admissions, making a total under treatment of 804, of whom 343 were discharged, recovered; 190 relieved; 41 unchanged; and 109 died.

At the close of the year there remained:—

	Males.	Females.
Alexandra Hospital	30	28
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary	12	11
Lunatic Asylum	17	16
Leper Wards	2	—
Totals	61	55

The number of paupers receiving rations on 1st January, 1917, was 114 in Nassau and 387 in the Out-Islands.

The institution was fortunate in obtaining the services—but for one year only—of an English trained matron and a nurse from America.

The expenditure—apart from the salaries of the permanent staff—was over £7,400, or £1,400 in excess of the appropriation, but the high cost of food, clothing, and drugs, and the numerous repairs required, account for this.

Savings Bank.

30. During the year ended 30th June, 1916 (the "Savings Bank year"), 3,772 deposits (£7,030) and 2,916 withdrawals (£8,018) were made. During the past eight years the excess of withdrawals over deposits amounted to over £13,000. The contributory causes were the operations of the Savings Departments of the local banks at a higher rate of interest than allowed by Government with no restriction as to maximum amount and the disturbance in local industries at the outbreak of war. With regard to the former an Act has now been passed raising the rate from 2½ to 3 per cent. and, with regard to the latter, it appears that this condition of affairs no longer prevails, as for some time past the high prices for sisal and sponge have put large sums of money into the people's pockets; in many cases they hoard or bury the money in preference to banking it.

The liabilities were £28,022 on 30th June, 1916—the assets at the then market rates, £30,123.

As it is impossible to sell out securities at present except at considerable loss, the bank is over invested, and the Government has had to advance sums—now amounting to £4,370—to meet withdrawals.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

31. The births in 1916 numbered 2,146, as against 2,424 in 1915. The deaths were 947, as against 1,130. The birth-rate was 36·6 and death-rate 16.2 per 1,000. Of the total number of births registered 34·7 per cent. were illegitimate.

The estimated population on 1st January, 1916, was ..		58,124
Births, 1916	2,146	
Deaths, 1916	947	
Add excess of births		1,199
		59,323
Deduct excess of emigrants over immigrants		839
Estimated population on 1st January, 1917		58,484

No census of colour has ever been taken.

506 marriages were registered—141 more than in 1915.

The public health was very good.

Owing to the epidemic of infantile paralysis in New York, that port during part of the year was declared infected. Children under 16 were quarantined for a week.

In consequence of the prevalence of anthrax in America the importation of horses and hay from the United States was prohibited. This embargo has now been removed.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS.

32. The following are the meteorological data for the past three years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
1914	76·3	80·3	77·4	80·8	72·0	86·2	64·4	54·32
1915	76·0	78·5	72·2	81·0	71·9	86·0	66·6	49·10
1916	76·4	79·9	77·6	79·9	72·0	83·3	61·4	46·12

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

POSTAL.

33. Postal revenue for 1916–1917.. .. £3,423
„ expenditure „ „ 970

to which must be added the foreign and inter-insular mail subsidies amounting to about £9,300.

The total number of postal packets (excluding parcels) received and despatched was 856,807, a decrease of 64,740, due to an unsuccessful tourist season.

5,034 money and postal orders, value £5,042, were issued and 1,511 money and postal orders, value £2,909, were paid.

The total number of parcels received from and sent to the United Kingdom and United States of America was 12,653, value £10,741,

The contract with the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company (known as the Ward Line)—for a mail, passenger, and freight service between Nassau and New York—for a subsidy of £5,000 per annum expires on 21st August, 1917, and the Company have intimated that, by reason of war conditions, they are unable to renew it.

A contract was drawn up for the performance of a similar service between Jacksonville (Florida) and Nassau during the tourist season (January to April) for a subsidy of £5,000, but conditions were unfavourable. The steamer only performed nine trips and the service was discontinued by mutual consent for a payment of £1,500.

Subsidies paid to various local schooners for inter-insular mail, passenger, and freight services amounted to about £2,800 and this year will probably reach £3,500.

TELEGRAPHS.

34. The Superintendent reports as follows :—

"A continuous watch was maintained at the Radio Station during the year and, with the exception of a period of two hours required for the removal of a damaged motor-generator and the substitution of a working machine, the station was in position for work at all times.

"In September experiments were tried in the handling of private telegrams direct with a radio station in Jamaica. These trials proved quite satisfactory and in many instances advantage has been taken of the Jamaica route for telegrams to and from other parts of the Empire, there having been some 200 messages diverted to this route up to the 31st March.

"Working with the American coast, through the United States naval radio system, continues quite satisfactory.

"No serious complaint as to error or delay in telegrams has reached the department during the year.

"The revenue was £3,507 and expenditure £1,884, while the total number of messages handled was 6,501.

"In view of the fact that the tourist season was not a successful one, I consider that the financial returns of the department are most satisfactory; while the handling of the number of messages noted above with minimum of delay or error reflects great credit on the clerk and operators of the staff."

No steps have been taken to repair or renew the submarine cable between Nassau and Jupiter (Florida) which has been out of commission for more than three years.

Telephone.

35. A total of 449,528 calls was registered with a one day total of 4,061. There are 381 telephones on the system. Revenue £1,281, expenditure £1,196 including interest on (£25) and repayment of (£160) loan.

Electric Light.

36. Revenue £4,451, expenditure £3,854 including interest on (£500) and repayment of (£666 13*s.* 4*d.*) loan. On account of lighting restrictions and a poor tourist season the output of electricity was less than usual.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Development of the Colony.

37. I append extracts from the Report of the Development Board:—

"The Board having no office accommodation since its creation, it was decided to rent a portion of the second floor of the Masonic Building and there establish an Information Bureau for Tourists, where they would be able to obtain information on the Colony, both as to its possibilities of development and as a winter resort; and for this purpose large maps of the Colony and of New Providence were obtained. Files of local newspapers, magazines and other suitable literature are kept at this bureau.

"Mr. Highman, of the Raymond & Whitcomb Co., visited this city in July and made arrangements to feature Nassau as a 'winter resort' in their literature and to include it in their tours.

"Arrangements were made with Mr. McHarg Davenport, of the Atlas Advertising Agency of New York, again to represent the Board, and a newspaper and magazine advertising campaign, including an agency office in that city, was arranged.

"A very considerable reprint of folders and literature on Nassau was undertaken in conjunction with the New York & Cuba Mail S.S. Co., Raymond & Whitcomb Co. and others, and these have been distributed also to tourist agencies both in the United States and Canada, many of which have shown good results even under adverse circumstances. Further, a complete list of hotels, boarding houses, cottages and rooms was issued by the Board and liberally supplied among steamship lines and tourist agencies wherever they could be placed.

"Advertising was further undertaken by articles contributed to American papers, and also by cancelling of the stamps of outgoing letters by an announcement of the 'Nassau Tourist Season, Dec. to April.'

"Arrangements were made and a booklet published by the eminent artist, Mr. Stephen Haweis, entitled 'Sea Gardens of Nassau, Bahamas,' which is now being widely distributed wherever it may prove of value, and which should be of permanent interest and benefit to the Colony.

"Prior to the opening of the season, under the auspices and with the assistance of the Board, a considerable display of native products, curios and articles of manufacture of the Colony was made at the annual National Canadian Exhibition in Toronto in August, and later a similar one in November at T. Eaton Company's Department Store, also in Toronto.

"Negotiations were entered into for an encampment of the Canadian Aviation Corps in the suburbs of the city, and Lieutenant Macbeth visited Nassau for the purpose of investigating conditions. The Board gave the lieutenant every encouragement, but unfortunately, on account of the short time available for preparation, this project fell through.

"In conjunction with the Miami Regatta Committee a fast cruiser motor-boat race from Miami to Nassau was arranged to take place late in February, the height of our season, and suitable and handsome cups were provided as prizes. A local regatta committee was appointed and began to make arrangements for a regatta to be held at Nassau about the same time. Both these events were receiving enthusiastic support.

"Various schemes for improving the Government landing stage, buoying the North-West Channel, and improving the Government's Bay Street property were strongly urged by the Board.

"Early in December the Royal Victoria Hotel was opened to visitors on the American plan for the first time in many years, showing that the interests concerned had every reason to expect an exceptionally good season and were assured of good bookings for both their hotels.

"Up to this time, with the efforts made by the Board and its agents, the prospects for an unusually good season were exceedingly bright, and were confirmed by the many reports as to bookings made by the hotel and steamship companies. The correspondence of its New York agent, Mr. McHarg Davenport, the Raymond & Whitcomb Co., of Boston, and the Jules Hone Travel Agencies of Montreal assured the Board that Nassau had obtained a popularity that would guarantee a flow of tourists that would eclipse all previous records.

"Subsequent to the abandonment of the Miami service by the Peninsular & Occidental S.S. Co., and previous to the negotiations of the New York & Cuba Mail S.S. Co. for service of the 'Prince Arthur,' the Board was in communication with the Chamber of Commerce of Miami and the Board of Trade of Jacksonville with a view to a winter service to this port.

"In consequence, the steam yacht 'Condor,' of the Republic Steamship Company of New York, at that time under charter to a party coming to Nassau, was referred to us through her captain, W. S. Griffiths, with whom we entered into negotiations for an all-year-round service from Miami.

"These were terminated by the making of the contract by the Government of the Jacksonville Ward Line Service.

"The Board had been advised by the Raymond & Whitcomb Co. of the intention of the United Fruit Co. (White Fleet) of running their excursion steamers to Nassau, and their own intention of including same in their tours by this line, but we are given to understand that they were unable to carry out this plan because of an existing agreement between the New York & Cuba Mail S.S. Co. and the United Fruit Co.

"When prospects were most brilliant there came the unfortunate series of events: first the lighting restrictions, then the failure of the Jacksonville Service caused by the unsuitability of the vessel to perform the service.

"These put an embargo on any success to our season, and practically frustrated any further serious efforts of the Board to revive it, and the climax to this was added by the rupture of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany and immediate prospects of war between those two nations.

"The Board therefore regret to have to report that instead of an unusually successful season the same had dwindled off to such an extent that it was no longer considered advisable to carry out arrangements for a motor-boat race and local regatta, but to postpone them to a more auspicious occasion.

"From hotel advices received, there had been unprecedented bookings for accommodations, which were in greater part later cancelled. In consequence, the Royal Victoria Hotel closed on the 14th February and the Hotel Colonial on 23rd March, considerably before the time intended.

"The Board is advised by the management of these hotels that up to 1st March there were cancellations to the number of 501, aggregating $110,000; that the carriage business was $457.67, against $1,7[illegible]7 last year, and that the boating and bathing beach was reduced to less than one-third, all owing to lighting restrictions and others consequent on the War.

"The Board regard the lighting restrictions as an unsuperable bar to the prospects of any future winter season during which they may be in force, and are of the opinion that all their efforts to induce tourists to visit Nassau will be frustrated by these regulations.

"The numbers of tourists and others arriving during the season 1916–1917 were as follows:—

From New York	.. ..	953
„ Jacksonville	.. ..	258
„ Havana	.. ..	75
		1,286

as against the season 1915–1916 of 2,680."

With regard to the remarks of the Board respecting lighting restrictions, it should be stated that it is probable that other causes contributed to the poorness of the tourist season, such as the fear of the activities of German submarines or raiders, and the disturbed conditions which made it impossible for many American business men to take a holiday here.

Mr. Richard Le Gallienne, the author and poet, again visited Nassau and his picturesque articles to American magazines will no doubt do much to stimulate interest in the Colony.

War Contingent.

38. This Colony had guaranteed to supply a contingent of 200 men for active service in the British West Indies Regiment and reinforcements to the extent of 100 per cent. per annum. Latterly, I am glad to say, owing to the activity of Major Turner, the Acting Commandant of Police, and the Recruiting Committee, recruits have come forward in considerable numbers and the Colony has up to the present more than fulfilled its pledge. The Government bears the whole cost of transport, separation allowances, and pensions, gratuities, and disability allowances, and it does not require any compulsory allotments from the soldiers' pay. The contingent is, of course, composed almost entirely of coloured men, but quite a number of our white youths have enlisted via Canada.

Volunteers.

39. A small volunteer force for local defence has recently been raised under the authority of a proclamation made by the Governor.

Effect of the War upon the Colony.

40. The exports of sponge and sisal—the Colony's chief products—have been very large and the prices have ruled high. In consequence

the people are comparatively well off, and have had the advantage of the very low freight rates (for war time) provided in the contract with the New York and Cuba Mail S.S. Co. On the other hand, the prices of provisions—which are to a very large extent imported from America—have risen to a very high figure. The Government has instituted a food campaign with the object of inducing the inhabitants to plant more maize and other food crops so as to be less dependent on outside supplies. In many cases land has been given free to bona-fide cultivators, and the sympathies of private owners of large tracts of suitable land have been enlisted. The entry of America into the War was, as far as this Colony is concerned, not an unmixed blessing, because it meant greater difficulty in getting supplies, a probable further increase of prices and, certainly, a cessation of the mail contract with, consequently, infrequent and irregular communication with New York, and higher freight rates.

Emigration to Florida.

41. The figures for the past five years are as follows :—

Year.	Out.			In.			Excess of Outs (+) or Ins (—).		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1912 .	1,909	719	2,628	1,922	626	2,548	— 13	+ 93	+ 80
1913 .	2,547	875	3,422	1,779	617	2,396	+768	+258	+1,026
1914 .	2,806	952	3,758	2,302	757	3,059	+504	+195	+ 699
1915 .	1,008	503	1,511	1,959	743	2,702	—951	—240	—1,191
1916 .	1,945	789	2,734	1,296	599	1,895	+649	+190	+ 839
Totals	10,215	3,838	14,053	9,258	3,342	12,600	+957	+496	+1,453

The figures from 1st January to 30th June, 1917 were :—

Out : Males, 872 ; females, 442. Total, 1,314.
In : „ 1,135 ; „ 350. „ 1,485.

The recent exodus of coloured labourers from the Southern to the Northern States of America would, in ordinary times, lead to increased emigration from the Colony to Florida where high wages are paid and Bahamian labour is in good repute. On the other hand, the entry of America into the War has had the effect of bringing back to their homes here many of our emigrants who feared that registration meant conscription from which, although British subjects, they erroneously thought they would not be exempt. Also the Passport Regulations and the recent American law by which, inter alia, inability to read and write constitutes a bar to entry into the States, will tend to lessen emigration.

Administration.

42. As a result of the Report of a Commission appointed by the Governor to enquire into the adequacy of the salaries of the subordinate officials and the police, an Act has been passed which, if allowed by the King, will temporarily increase their pay from 1st July,

1917, by varying rates of percentage. It is restricted to officers drawing £200 a year or under, and was designed to compensate them to some extent for the present high cost of living. The estimated extra charge on the revenue is about £4,000 a year. Ways and means have been provided by the imposition of an export tax of a farthing a pound on sisal, which, if the recent high rate of production and export is maintained, should produce some £7,000 a year.

43. The Chief Justice—Mr. Daniel T. Tudor— and the President of the Legislative Council—Mr. James P. Sands—have recently received the honour of knighthood.

W. HART BENNETT,

Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas.
6th August, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	,,
902	Somaliland	,,
903	Cyprus	,,
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	,,
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	,,
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	,,
913	Leeward Islands	,,
914	Uganda	,,
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	,,
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	,,
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1915–1916
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	,,
925	Zanzibar	,,
926	Fiji	,,
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
931	Gibraltar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Barclay & Fry, Ltd., Southwark, London, S.E. 1.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 978.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916-17 see No. 932.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

February, 1919.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1919.

[Cmd. 1-1.] *Price* 2*d. Net.*

No. 978.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1918.*

Note.—The figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1918, with Trade and Customs for the year ended 31st December, 1917 (as desired by the Board of Trade).

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £86,767, as compared with £90,472 in 1916–1917 ("Crown" revenue not included). Of this £72,011 was derived from Customs duties—a decrease of £4,654 on the previous year.

2. The expenditure was £105,254, as against £97,213 in 1916–17. The increase was mainly due to expenditure on the Bahamas contingent for the British West Indies Regiment.

3. At the close of the year, there was a credit balance of some £698, exclusive of £4,370 advanced to the Post Office Savings Bank.

4. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1918, was £27,920, as against £43,506 on 31st March, 1917.

5. The Public Debt (other than the Debt incurred under the Loan Act, 1915), bearing interest at 4 and 4½ per cent., was originally £143,126 and now stands at £50,997. The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £6,580, and the debt should be wholly liquidated in 1926.

6. It has been found necessary since the 31st March last to raise a loan, and the local issue of debentures not exceeding £30,000 was authorized by the Loan Act 1918, bearing interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum and redeemable two years after the date of issue.

7. The Note Issue of the Bank of Nassau which was guaranteed by the Government has been called in and is being redeemed. On 31st March, 1918, only £840 of the original issue of £6,500 remained unredeemed.

8. The Royal Bank of Canada, which carries the Government account, on 31st March, 1918, had in the Colony deposits amounting to £183,455.

*A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 849: [Cd. 7622–40.]

(C517) Wt.1/155. 1,000 & 90. 2.19. B.&F.Ltd. G.11/2.

9. The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold. American gold and silver certificates are not legal tender but are accepted, if of 5 dollars and upwards, at the same rate as American gold; if below 1 dollar, at the rate of 4*s.* to the dollar. British currency notes of the £1 and 10*s.* denominations are in circulation to the extent of some £30,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

10. The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1917, were valued at £493,584, an increase of £18,517 over the previous year, due to advance in the cost of absolute necessities.

11. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade, the imports were:—

Headings.	*America.*		*United Kingdom.*		*Other Countries.*		*Total.*	
	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, Food, Drink & Narcotics	196,987	228,674	16,927	8,186	22,156	31,446	236,070	268,306
2. RawMaterials, Other.. ..	13,369	14,303	20	—	11	—	13,400	14,303
3. Manufactured Articles:								
Textiles ..	70,177	72,875	27,707	15,555	1,932	2,251	99,816	90,681
Metal ..	55,416	34,525	3,803	4,563	121	804	59,340	39,892
Other ..	51,617	65,374	5,679	4,553	245	475	57,541	70,402

12. The share of the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries in the import trade for the last two years is summarised as follows by the Comptroller of Customs, who has also furnished the other interesting data recorded in this section of my report:—

	1916.		1917.	
	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom	54,836	11·5	42,857	8·7
Canada	2,130	0·5	2,848	·6
British Possessions	18,824	4·0	28,020	5·7
America	389,616	82·0	415,751	84·2
Other Countries	9,661	2·0	4,108	·8
Total	£475,067		£493,584	

13. These figures clearly show the effect of the War on trade. To the difficulty of obtaining goods and to the high charges thereon can be attributed the lessening of trade with the Mother Country.

Canada shows slight increase over last year's figures, but until a direct connection by water is effected much progress in this direction can hardly be expected. Increased importations of raw coffee, brown sugar, and rum from Jamaica account for the improved state of trade of other British Possessions. Holland, the only country in Europe with which any trade was possible, supplied gin to the extent of £930.

Of the total value of imports for the year the value of *ad valorem* totalled £204,805 or 41·5 per cent.; specific, £251,864 or 51 per cent.; and free, £36,915 or 7·5 per cent.

The total duties received distributed over the total imports show a net Customs taxation of 14·7 per cent.

Exports.

14. The value of exports was £402,477, of which £389,025 represent the value of local produce; £13,452 of re-exports.

15. The following table shows the direction of the export trade for the last two years:—

	1916.		1917.	
	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom	41,944	12·6	47,796	11·9
America	217,643	65·4	290,450	72·1
Canada	5,514	1·7	11,554	2·9
Brit. West Indies	945	0·3	1,117	·3
Holland	14,058	4·2	1,827	·5
France	20,425	6·1	41,134	10·2
Cuba	29,220	8·8	6,944	1·7
Other Countries	2,930	0·9	1,655	·4
Total	332,679		£402,477	

16. The exports to the United Kingdom increased from £41,944 or 12·6 per cent. in 1916 to £47,796 or 11·9 per cent. in 1917. The increase was due entirely to increased shipments of sponges.

Exports to the United States of America, the chief market for the Colony's products, amounted to £290,450 or 72·2 per cent. of the total exports, an increase of £72,807 or 6·8 per cent. Chief products were: Bahamas Hemp, 7,560,546 lbs. (£181,700); Sponges, 426,352 lbs. (£67,787); Pineapples (preserved), 35,341 cases (£10,300); Tomatoes, 43,716 bushels (£6,785).

Exports to Canada showed an increase of £6,040, sponges contributing £5,034 of this increase. Chief products shipped were:—Sponges, 30,771 lbs. (£7,037); Pineapples (preserved), 12,640 cases (£3,928).

Exports to Holland, entirely of sponge, owing to transportation difficulties fell from 117,391 lbs. to 20,786 lbs., or a difference in value of £11,786.

The export of sponge to France showed an increase of 76,589 lbs., at a value of £29,986.

The large decrease in trade with Cuba is due to the ceasing of exports of lumber in consequence of the closing of the Bahamas Timber Mills.

There are no direct exports from the Out-Islands to foreign countries, with the exception of salt and *lignum vitae* shipped to Jamaica, all produce being brought for disposal to the Nassau market. In this connection satisfactory results were obtained and favourable prices were maintained all through the year.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to :—

Imports	£493,584
Exports	402,477
	£896,061

Shipping.

17. The nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared were as follows :—

Entered.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	48	10,466	179	11,630	227	22,096
American ..	118	239,143	10	2,752	128	241,895
Other countries	10	10,863	5	3,142	15	14,005
Total ..	176	260,472	194	17,524	370	277,906

Cleared.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	47	10,406	191	12,482	238	22,888
American ..	116	239,128	12	2,778	128	241,906
Other countries	10	10,863	2	14	12	10,877
Total ..	173	260,397	205	15,274	378	275,671

Agriculture.

18. I subjoin extracts from the report of the Agricultural Board :—

"*Citrus Fruit.*—In the early part of the season a quantity of grapefruit from the out-Islands was shipped, but owing to low market prices the business has come to an end. The blue-gray citrus fly has practically destroyed the industry in New Providence. Many methods have been employed for exterminating the fly, but without success. The Board is now ordering some ants from Jamaica which feed on the eggs of the blue-gray fly, intending to colonize infected districts with this parasite. Absolute restrictions on transfer of plants, fruit and other products likely to spread disease on the Out-Islands have been enforced by the Board, and so far proved effectual, as there are no Islands infected with the fly.

"*Coconuts.*—A lively interest has been taken in this industry in consequence of the scarcity of fats and the high prices prevailing in local and foreign markets. The Board has distributed sprouted coconuts at a very low figure to encourage the planters. The development of this industry is very necessary, both for home consumption and export.

"*Corn.*—The quantity of corn seed planted is the largest in many years. The fall crop has yielded well. It is estimated that the crop will be a record. The Board has supplied a large quantity of seed, and has offered prizes in all districts for growing corn. The corn produced this year will help materially in relieving the situation caused by the shortage of foreign supplies.

"*Onions.*—The planting of seed was late, but some farmers have done well with their crops. 100 lbs. of Teneriffe-grown seed have been distributed.

"*Pineapples.*—The drought of last year has seriously affected the pineapple crop. Throughout all of the districts the yield has been small. Planters who have been supplied with slips and fertilizers realized but little on their fields, but report that they are in excellent condition for the coming season.

"*Sweet Potatoes.*—The Scarabee has done considerable damage to sweet potatoes in many places. The Board has looked into the situation and has distributed literature dealing with the proper methods for exterminating the Scarabee. From recent reports it is gathered that this pest is now under control in many of the important districts. It is expected that sweet potatoes will soon be plentiful again.

"*Sisal.*—The unprecedented high prices paid for sisal has encouraged many farmers to extend their cultivation. When other things have failed, this drought-resisting plant has been the main financial support of many people. Owing to speculative reasons and political conditions in the States, the demand for Bahama hand-cleaned sisal has decreased, but it is expected that the situation will soon clear up.

	Amount of Sisal exported.		
1916 ..	Sisal 8,369,245 lbs.	..	£114,465
1917 ..	Sisal 7,501,346 lbs.	..	181,695

"*Tomatoes.*—The tomato crop, from an agricultural standpoint, has been a complete success. The quantity was larger and the quality better. The farmers have clearly demonstrated that good tomatoes can be grown in the Bahamas on a large scale. Poor transportation and extremely cold weather in New York have caused the growers considerable loss. These discouragements are indeed to be regretted at the time when so much effort had been exerted to produce an unusually good crop. A bright future is predicted for the tomato industry when regular transportation can be secured. Up to date 75,100 crates of tomatoes have been shipped."

Fisheries.

19. The Marine Products Board reports as follows:—

"*Sponge.*—The forecast in the Board's reports for the years 1915 and 1916 has been fully justified by the unprecedented demand during the present year. The output was large, the prices high, the sales on the Exchange here amounting to the extraordinary sum of £152,282 3*s.* 3*d.* exceeding by £38,981 13*s.* 9*d.*, the sales for 1916, and £52,938 16*s.* 2*d.* more than 1913, which was the largest pre-War year on record. The death of Mr. W. R. Darrell and the war conditions which have temporarily closed the principal sponge depôts at Acklins and Andros resulted in throwing sponge that was formerly sold at those islands on this market, but, notwithstanding this fact, the sales otherwise have exceeded any previous year in the history of the trade.

"*Closures.*—The Current Sponging ground is the only area at present reserved. These beds were closed by Rule on the 1st day of January for a period of two years, but in deference to urgent petitions from the inhabitants of Eleuthera the Board, with the consent of His Excellency the Governor in Council, suspended the Rule until the first day of April, since when it has been in force. In view of many other petitions praying

for an absolute lifting of the closure the Board has decided to make an inspection of the shell deposits, and the Closure Rule shall continue to operate until the Inspection Report is before the Board.

"*Acklings Bight.*—The opening of this reserve to fishing was an important event to the Exchange. The sponges were abundant and of excellent quality and sold readily at high prices. The total for the year is estimated to be between £6,000 and £7,000. The Bight was closed on January 1st., 1914, to December 31st., 1915. At the expiration of that period the closure was extended for another year, it being opened on January 1st., 1917. The cost of the closure was £396.

"*Sponge Culture.*—The Sponge Farm at The Ferry, Exuma, is still in existence, but the Board regrets that it has not been in a position to enlarge the plantation. Specimens of sponge submitted by the caretakers show marked progress, and are forcible evidence that sponge cultivation is an enterprise that can be carried on successfully. These specimens, one a wool, 15 inches in circumference, the other a yellow, 4 inches in height, were exhibited in the Committee Room of the House of Assembly and are now in the possession of the Board.

"*Bêche de Mer.*—Experiments in curing *Bêche de Mer* have been very successful. The last lot handled by the Board was prepared by Mr. Lowe of Current Island; they were pliable, smooth and kept their shape; unfortunately they spoiled during the long trip to Hong Kong, and according to advices from Messrs. Laxley & Co. of that city, to whom they were sent, were thrown away. That firm, however, judged the sample to be shallow slugs and therefore of no great value. Commercial *Bêche de Mer* must be fished from deep water. The shallow water slug is too tough and lean for the best culinary uses. When our fishermen take up deep water *Bêche de Mer* the Board is confident, now that the curing process is known, of a good market for the catch."

Salt.

20. In olden days salt-raking at Inagua was a very important industry and brought in considerable revenue to the Crown by way of royalties. The business was run by an American company and in one year alone three million bushels were exported. It is much to be desired that capital and energy should be attracted with the view of reopening this trade.

There are also salt pans in other islands—Rum Cay, Long Cay, Long Island, Ragged Island, and Exuma.

The Out-Islands.

21. The following is a brief résumé of the reports of the Out-Island Commissioners for the year under review:

Abaco, Cherokee Sound.—The saw-mill at Wilson City was closed down on the 7th of February, throwing hundreds of men out of employment. The value of the lumber exported during the year was £9,705, the quantity being 1,784,000 feet.

Seven smacks at Cherokee Sound proper, engaged in fishing for the Nassau Market, earned about £3,000.

Abaco, Green Turtle Cay.—The output of cane syrup was 2,970 gallons, valued at £487; sponge, £8,403. About 130acres were put under sisal cultivation.

Abaco, Hope Town.—The value of sponge exported was £24,752; sisal £1,305. The area devoted to sisal at the end of the year was 473 acres, being an extension of 95 acres. The revival of the pine-apple industry was taken in hand.

There was a great advance during the year in the production of such staple edibles as the sweet potato, corn, sugar cane, etc., the

area under cultivation at the end of 1917 being 134 acres, showing an increase of 94 acres as compared with 1916.

Andros, Mangrove Cay.—Strictly speaking, Mangrove Cay is not an agricultural district. The seasons during 1917 were poor, and the summer crops failed. The district is suitable for the growth of coconuts. Smith Brothers planted during the year 4,000 nuts. Nuts were retailed locally at 1½*d.* each. Sisal is not grown to any extent, and the proper cleaning of the fibre received scant attention. Buyers appear to be at little pains to discriminate in the matter. Very few vegetables are grown. The district is not favourable for stock-raising, owing to the presence of the honeysuckle weed.

Andros, Nicoll's Town.—Sponge gathering is the chief industry. Owing, however, to the threatened scarcity of foreign foodstuffs, the area under cultivation of ground provisions was increased to about 100 acres. Sisal planting was extended by about 400 acres.

Biminis.—Several boats were built during the year and used for fishing, turtling, and sponging purposes. Interest in the cultivation of coconuts and sisal was stimulated. The food crops were much damaged by a flood followed by high winds and drought.

Eleuthera, Governor's Harbour.—The tomato industry was greatly developed, and 15,000 crates were shipped, valued at £4,500. 50,000 dozen pineapples were sold locally valued at £2,900; 150,000 lbs. of sisal valued at £2,500. Growers shipped to commission agents in New York and received accounts direct. Excellent prices were obtained owing to a shortage in Florida on account of frost. The firm of F. Opolinski, of New York, made advances to growers. Crate material was supplied by that firm, and also by Messrs. W. J. and S. H. Davenport. It is hoped to revive the pineapple trade with Baltimore.

The planting of sisal at Savannah Sound and James's Cistern was considerably extended.

The acreage under ground crops was increased generally.

The closing of the sponge beds was felt very severely by those engaged in the industry.

Eleuthera, Rock Sound, and Tarpum Bay.—The output of tomatoes was increased and more attention given to the planting of sisal. Improvements in the packing and handling of tomatoes were effected, but shipping facilities from Nassau to America were inadequate. Large fields of corn, peas, beans, etc., were planted.

Exuma.—The district was almost entirely dependent on sisal and the trade in that staple was large. The cultivation of ground provisions was neglected. A sisal exchange is advocated.

Some very fine sheep are to be found in the district.

Grand Bahama.—Sponging was the main occupation of the people during the year.

Shells were gathered in large quantities and shipped to Nassau.

Harbour Island.—Schooners plying between Harbour Island, Nassau, and Miami almost doubled the profits made during the previous year.

Two sugar mills were in operation and turned out about 1,300 gallons of syrup. Efforts were made to revive the pineapple industry by planting 50 additional acres. The area under coconut cultivation was increased to the extent of 10 acres.

Inagua.—There was a slight improvement in the trade with Haiti. *Lignum Vitae* and salt were exported to Jamaica.

Long Island.—The area devoted to the production of ground provisions was largely increased.

It was an exceptional year for sisal. The total quantity exported amounted to 2,532,320 lbs. Some was sold at £2 for 100 lbs.

The sweet potato crop was practically destroyed by the weevil.

Three thousand sheep were shipped to Nassau, valued at £2,700. The value of 150 head of horned cattle shipped was £1,050.

Ragged Island.—There was a considerable increase in the volume of trade with Haiti.

Vessels from Jamaica taking freight to Nassau, called for salt on the return trip. Upwards of 11,000 bushels of salt were sold, valued at £347.

The normal output of mats and baskets was fully maintained.

The planting of food crops was extended, and 35 additional acres were placed under sisal, making a total of 120.

Rum Cay.—Sweet potatoes and Indian corn were produced in large quantities.

There was a revival of interest in the coconut industry.

Sisal received attention.

San Salvador, Arthur's Town.—Indian and Guinea corn were largely planted but, owing to drought, fell short of expectations.

Sisal was the mainstay of the people, the fibre being readily exchanged at the shops for flour, sugar, etc.

San Salvador, The Bight.—The sisal exported to Nassau amounted to 1,020,000 lbs., valued at £15,300.

An epidemic broke out among the horses and about 120 died.

Watlings.—The cultivation of sisal was the chief employment. The quantity of fibre produced was valued at £9,042. Between 100 and 150 additional acres were planted.

More attention was paid to food crops.

Manufactures.

22. *Pineapple canning Factories.*—The exports of tinned pineapples during the last two years were :—

In 1916	..	38,807 cases, valued at £10,983.
„ 1917		47,997 „ „ „ 14,237

Lands and Forests.

23. The total area of the Colony is estimated to be about 2,850,000 acres, and of this area 367,413 acres have been sold and granted to private persons.

Until recently many of the purchasers of land had not been supplied with Crown grant documents, but additions made to the surveying and clerical staff in the Surveyor General's Office are remedying this defect. Considerable arrears of this work, however, still exist.

The land remaining ungranted contains certain areas suitable for agriculture, but a very considerable portion consists of swampy, rocky, or otherwise barren land unsuitable for agriculture.

On the Island of Inagua there is an extent of open country covered with coarse grass. This is Crown Land and used for grazing purposes

Also on other islands attempts are now being made in a small way to utilize for cattle-grazing vacant land which is unsuitable for agriculture.

The policy of the Crown at present is to lease vacant land on easy terms, and a large number of peasant farmers hold land as tenants of the Crown. The Crown only sells land in small lots, chiefly in settlements, to persons desirous of building. On the Islands of New Providence, Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama are extensive forests of yellow pine.

On the Island of New Providence there is an area of about seven square miles of the pine timber land still in the hands of the Crown. Also at Abaco, in the vicinity of Cocoa Plum Creek, there is an area of about 21 square miles of pine timber land still in the hands of the Crown.

The Crown is prepared to grant concessions for cutting this pine timber and extracting turpentine, etc., on conditions which can be ascertained on application to the Colonial Secretary.

Over the remaining portion of pine timber land at Abaco a licence to cut the timber has been granted to an American Company, namely, The Bahamas Timber Co., Ltd., of Minneapolis.

Licences have also been granted to the same Company to cut pine timber on Crown Lands over the whole Islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama.

III.—LEGISLATION.

24. Fifteen Acts were added to the Statute Book.

Two Codes were enacted; one, based upon a Grenada ordinance, dealing with coinage offences, and the other with pilots and pilotage.

The increased cost of living consequent on the War made it necessary to augment the salaries of all persons in the Public Service whose pay did not exceed £200 a year.

A section in the Appropriation Act provided for the gift to the British Red Cross Society of one half of the gross proceeds of the sale of the special issue of the one penny Queen's Staircase stamps during the financial year 1917–1918.

IV.—EDUCATION.

25. The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools.

	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
Year.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1916	51	8,097	6,470	5,184	12	907	779	600	63	9,004	7,249	5,784
1917	49	7,787	6,177	4,781	13	1,008	834	651	62	8,795	7,011	5,432

The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 51 principal teachers, 6 assistant teachers, 3 pupil teachers, 167 monitors, 13 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 12 employed in aided schools.

The total numbers receiving primary education are 3,593 boys and 3,418 girls, compared with 3,804 boys and 3,445 girls in 1916.

Primary education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14 years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of 12 members (under the chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary) appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school houses, teachers' residences, etc., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements long distances apart on the various islands, themselves separated for many miles. The average annual cost for each child on the rolls is about 14*s.* 7*d.*, and for each child in average attendance about 23*s.* 7*d.*, or, including a temporary increase of salaries to teachers, 15*s.* 2*d.* and 24*s.* 7*d.* respectively.

The grant-aided schools received an average grant of about £25 in aid of the teachers' incomes, supplies of books and materials, and in many cases assistance in building or fitting up and furnishing school rooms. School fees are supposed to be the grant-in-aid teachers' chief income, but very few are paid in cash. Field produce and labour are the principal items, and no return of these, nor of the occasional cash payments, is ever made to the Education Department. The total amount is, however, in each case so small that, but for the grants, the schools would be closed.

In addition to the schools under the control of the Board, there were 23 maintained by the Church of England, 5 of which were in New Providence; average roll, 1,089, and average attendance, 576. There were also 4 Roman Catholic Schools, total roll about 408, and 11 private schools, roll, 199.

There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows:—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	65	52	117
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England)	17	—	17
St. Hilda's High School	16	46	62
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	16	28	44
Total	114	126	240

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

26. The so-called hospital (originally established in 1809 as a poor-house) has for a very long time comprised the hospital proper, infirmary dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper wards.

The number of inmates on 1st January, 1917, was :—

	Males.	Females.
Alexandra Hospital	30	28
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary	12	11
Lunatic Asylum	17	16
Leper Wards	2	—
Totals	61	55

During the year 1917, there were 715 admissions, making a total under treatment of 821, of whom 287 were discharged, recovered; 229 relieved, and 148 died.

The number of paupers receiving rations on 1st January, 1917, was 167 in Nassau and 321 in the Out-Islands.

Savings Bank.

27. During the year ended 30th June, 1917, 3,933 deposits amounting to £7,709 14*s.* 1*d.* and 2,846 withdrawals amounting to £7,645 13*s.* 7*d.*, were made, an excess of £64 0*s.* 6*d.* in deposits over withdrawals which, though slight, may be regarded as a hopeful sign of the reversal of conditions which have prevailed for the last decade, when almost invariably withdrawals have exceeded deposits.

The amount due to the Government on account of advances obtained from the Treasury since September, 1914, is £4,370 7*s.* 2*d.* Owing to the depression of the money market is has been decided not to realise on securities held for invested funds until an improvement takes place.

On June 30th, 1917, the liabilities were £28,353 and the assets including investments at cost, £33,447.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

28. The births in 1917 numbered 2,134, as against 2,146 in 1916. The deaths were 1,130, as against 947. The birth-rate was 38·1 and death-rate 20 per 1,000.

The estimated population on 1st January, 1917, was ..		59,928
Births, 1917	2,134	
Deaths, 1917	1,130	
Add excess of births		1,004
		60,932

No census of colour has ever been taken.

414 marriages were registered—92 less than in 1916.

The public health was on the whole good. No epidemic of infectious or contagious disease occurred, and the number of reportable diseases was less than usual.

A Commission was appointed in January last to enquire into and report on the prevalence of venereal diseases and make recommendations for dealing with the problem. The Report of the Commission has been presented.

Meteorological Statistics.

29. The following are the meteorological data for the past two years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	7.30 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	inches
1916	76·4	79·9	77·6	79·9	72·0	83·3	61·4	46·12
1917	76·0	78·4	77·2	77·8	72·1	84·5	62·0	37·51

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

Postal.

30. Postal revenue for 1917–1918 .. £4,925
„ expenditure „ „ .. 10,122

The principal items of expenditure were :—

Subsidies—foreign	£4,007
„ —interinsular	3,098
Personal emoluments	1,099

The total number of postal packets, except parcels, received and despatched was 698,545, a decrease of 167,262, due to the absence of a tourist season.

4,521 money and postal orders, value £4,593 17*s.* 4*d.*, were issued, and 2,180 money and postal orders, value £4,235 6*s.* 11*d.* were paid.

The total number of parcels received from and sent to the United Kingdom and United States of America was 10,714, value £10,165 18*s.* 1*d.*

By Order in Council the letter rate of postage to the United States was increased from one penny per 2 oz. to two pence per oz., effective from February 11th.

On the 19th February the War Tax Stamp Act was brought into effect.

Since the termination on August 21st. of the contract with the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company (Ward Line) the Colony has been without an external subsidized service.

Mails have been received direct from New York by unsubsidized freight steamers of the above-named Company, and more generally via Miami, Fla., by motor vessels locally owned.

The cost of the inter-insular mail services continues to increase in consequence of the greater expense entailed in operating the vessels.

Telegraphs.

31. The Superintendent reports as follows :—

"The apparatus at the Radio Station was maintained without breakdown at any time during the year, and with few exceptions, when adverse atmospheric conditions were at a maximum, the service was very satisfactory.

"Efficiency in the operating staff was increased by the addition, temporarily, of an Electrician-Operator whose services were placed at our disposal by the Navy Department of the United States Government.

"Communication with the Radio station at Key West, Florida, was of frequent occurrence daily, and the transmission and reception of signals with the British Admiralty Station in Jamaica was carried on several times daily with but little difficulty."

Telephone.

32. A total of 528,344 calls was registered with a one day total of 4,061. There are 409 telephones on the system. Revenue £1,324, expenditure £1,251, including interest on (£17) and repayment of (£160) loan.

Electric Light.

33. Revenue £5,200, expenditure £3,647, including interest on (£480) and repayment of (£666 13*s.* 4*d.*) loan. On account of lighting restrictions and a poor tourist season the output of electricity was less than usual.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Development of the Colony.

34. I append extracts from the report of the Development Board :—

"The practical collapse of the tourist season early in 1917, caused by the lighting restrictions and the unsettled diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany, occasioned the earlier closing of the Hotel and consequently a very gloomy outlook for the season 1917–18.

"Before taking any steps to advertise for the season 1918 the Board communicated with the Florida East Coast Hotel Co. and endeavoured to get them to open the Royal Victoria Hotel, but the Company refused to do this unless the Government would guarantee them against loss by a subsidy, which was duly communicated to the Government.

"It being found impossible to obtain a suitable steamship to place on the run from Miami to Nassau, and the Ward Line being unable to guarantee any service from New York, it was decided that to cater for tourists under these circumstances would be an unprofitable proposition and the Board decided to incur no further expenditure for this purpose for the present.

"During the summer quite a considerable correspondence was carried on with a number of ship and yacht brokers with a view to securing a vessel to run during the season between Nassau and either Jacksonville or Miami, but it was ineffectual on account of excessive prices asked, both for vessels and charters.

"All advertising in papers or magazines was abandoned for the season, as it would be worthless in view of the existing circumstances.

"The strictest economy was practised by the Board.

"In order to make the passage from Bimini to Nassau over the Banks safe for yacht travel two buoys have been placed in the North-West Passage. This Passage has been marked dangerous on the charts and consequently has prevented amateur yachtsmen risking their craft. With the buoys placed in position it is now possible to find the channel at any time during daylight. When normal conditions are restored the

Board hopes to derive considerable benefit from this source, as there are a large number of yachts wintering in Miami every season, quite a number of which, the Board feels convinced, will find their way to Nassau, thereby adding considerably to the life of future tourist seasons.

"A scheme of beautifying Nassau by means of planting on frontages various of our colour trees was undertaken and arrangements made for the propagation of several hundred of these that are now being set out in the various districts, and a further inducement to improvement was made by the offering of prizes for the best kept gardens and yards of the various districts this coming season.

"A number of Stephen Haweis' booklet, 'Sea Gardens of Nassau,' were distributed to Steamship Companies and others.

"The Board regret that it has lost the services, temporarily, of Mr. McHarg Davenport, who has enlisted in the United States Army, but the correspondence was duly attended to from its office in Nassau.

"The number of tourists visiting Nassau this season is approximately only 125.

"The Board has made arrangements in conjunction with the Customs Authority and the Pilotage Board to make improvements by removal of the shed, etc., on the Government landing.

"The prospect for a tourist season and the opening of the Florida East Coast Hotels during the continuance of the War is very slim, but should we be fortunate enough to end this gigantic struggle at an early date the Board feel sure that the tourist traffic will again become one of the greatest assets of the Colony, and with the funds at the disposal of the Board every effort will be made to revive and establish our position as one of the most popular resorts in the Western world."

War Contingent.

35. This Colony had guaranteed to supply a contingent of 200 men for active service in the British West Indies Regiment and reinforcements to the extent of 100 per cent. per annum. Up to August, 1917, the Colony had more than fulfilled its pledge. The Government bears the whole cost of transport, separation allowances, and pensions, gratuities, and disability allowances, and it does not require any compulsory allotments from the soldiers' pay. The contingent is, of course, composed almost entirely of coloured men, but quite a number of our white youths have enlisted and others are periodically rallying to the Flag.

The most gratifying reports have been received of the services rendered by the units of the British West Indies Regiment in the various theatres of the War in which they have been engaged.

In August last year the following telegram was received through the Secretary of State for the Colonies from Sir Edmund Allenby, the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Egypt:—

"I have great pleasure in informing you of the gallant conduct of the machine gun section of the First British West Indies Regiment during two successful raids on the Turkish trenches, all ranks behaving with great gallantry under heavy rifle fire, and contributing in no small measure to the success of the operation."

A report furnished by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig towards the close of 1917 bore testimony to the good work being done by the battalion of the Regiment serving in France. They had been employed in all the main operations that had taken place after their arrival, including the battles of the Somme, Arras, Messines, and the operations near Ypres that year. The physique of the men was reported to be exceptional, their discipline excellent and their morale high. They had rendered valuable services at times of great pressure and had been of the utmost assistance to the Siege Artillery of the Armies.

Effect of the War upon the Colony.

36. The demand for both sisal and sponge, the two principal commodities exported from the Bahamas, has been increasing steadily since the outbreak of war. The value of the former in 1917–18 was £179,195 as against £47,219 in 1914–15, and of the latter £147,072 as against £93,395. These increases in value, however, must not be taken as indicating the true condition of these industries. High prices ruled. The sisal market has now fallen very considerably, while in the case of sponge it is only the higher grades that are in demand. There are at present large accumulations of this latter product which are temporarily unsaleable. This is partly accounted for by scarcity of freight.

The essential food supplies of this Colony—flour, corn, hominy, &c.—are obtained mainly from the United States. Owing to the entry of America into the War, the food problems arising therefrom, and the interruption of regular communication between New York and Nassau, the situation locally began to cause anxiety towards the end of 1917. On the 27th December, the Governor proceeded to Washington, and succeeded in arranging for the issue of licences ensuring a regular monthly supply of foodstuffs and other requisites during 1918.

Prior to his departure, Sir W. Allardyce appointed a Food Control Committee charged with the duty of taking such measures as might be necessary to maintain the supply of any article of commerce which formed part of the food supply of the Colony or was required to meet the wants of the public. The committee, under a running fire of criticism, have performed their difficult task with conspicuous success.

As a result of the food-planting campaign instituted by the Government, the Out-Islands during the year under review have probably had more ground crops under cultivation than has been the case for the last fifty years. The unwearying efforts of the various Commissioners, the assistance of the Board of Agriculture, and the co-operation of land owners and peasant proprietors have all contributed to this result. No opportunity has been lost to impress upon the people the vital importance of endeavouring to make each settlement self-supporting.

Emigration.

37. The figures for the past two years relating to Florida are as follow:—

Year.	Out.			In.			Excess of Outs (+) or Ins (—).		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1916 .	1,945	789	2,734	1,296	599	1,895	+649	+190	+839
1917 .	1,147	603	1,750	1,524	566	2,090	—377	+37	—340

38. Since July in the present year 2,573 labourers have proceeded to Charleston, South Carolina, for the purpose of engaging in War emergency work at that port undertaken by the Mason and Hanger

Contracting Company of New York. These labourers were recruited with the concurrence of the Government. The period of their employment will be approximately six months. The wages to be paid are at the rate of 13*s.* 7*d.* for a working day of ten hours. The cost of transport has been defrayed by the Company. Sleeping quarters at Charleston are free, and the living conditions are under the direct supervision of the United States Sanitary Inspection Officers. A sum of 2*s.* a day is withheld from the pay of each labourer and deposited to his credit in a Postal Savings Bank until such deductions shall amount to the sum of £20, or until the labourer shall decide to return to his home. An additional sum of 2*s.* a day is retained from the pay of each labourer and transmitted to this Government for the maintenance of home dependants.

Administration.

39. Mr. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G., who had filled the office of Colonial Secretary since 1905, was promoted to be Governor of British Honduras, and left Nassau in March last to assume the administration of the government of that Colony. The melancholy intelligence of his death, resulting from injuries inflicted by a falling flagstaff during a disastrous fire in Belize, has recently been received, to the universal sorrow of the people of the Bahamas, in whose regard he had become firmly established.

Mr. Hart Bennett was succeeded as Colonial Secretary by Mr. H. E. W. Grant, C.M.G.

In March last His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—The Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, K.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly and Chairman of the Bahamas War Relief Committee, to be O.B.E.; Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Lofthouse, President I.O.D.E., National Chapter of the Bahamas, to be M.B.E.; and Mrs. Agnes Norah Johnson, Honorary Secretary of the Bahamian Red Cross Guild, to be M.B.E.

H. E. W. Grant,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas.
3rd October, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
945	Swaziland	1916–1917
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	„
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	„
952	Leeward Islands	„
953	St. Vincent	„
954	Uganda	„
955	Nyasaland	„
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	„
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	„
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	„
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	„
964	Seychelles	„
965	Weihaiwei	„
966	Fiji	„
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	„
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
971	Ceylon	„
972	Hong Kong	„
973	Zanzibar	„
974	St. Helena	„
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 191 .
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Barclay & Fry, Ltd., Southwark, London, S.E. 1.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1033

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1918-19.

(For Report for 1917–18 see No. 978.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

April, 1920.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1920.

[Cmd. 508.] *Price 2d. Net.*

No. 1033.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT BY THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1919.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £107,478 14*s.* 11*d.* Of this amount £26,430 was realized from the sale of debentures under the provisions of The Loan Act, 1918, leaving a net revenue from ordinary sources of £81,048 14*s.* 11*d.* The revenue in 1917–1918 was £86,767, showing a decrease in revenue from ordinary sources, as compared with last year, of £5,718 5*s.* 1*d.* Customs duties yielded £61,827 2*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with £72,011 in the previous year, a decrease of £10,183 17*s.* 8*d.*

"Crown" revenues are not included in these figures.

2. The expenditure was £98,236 10*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £105,254 8*s.* 7*d.* in 1917–1918; a decrease of £7,017 18*s.* 0*d.* The decrease is mainly accounted for by the cessation of expenditure on the Bahamas Contingents for the British West Indies Regiment.

3. At the close of the year, there was a credit balance of £9,242 4*s.* 4*d.*

4. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1919, was £37,829 17*s.* 3*d.*, compared with £27,920 on 31st March, 1918.

5. The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4, 4½, 5 and 5½ per cent., now stands at £69,426 14*s.* This includes loans made under the provisions of The Loan Acts of 1915 and 1918. Under the 1915 Act, the sum of £25,000 is now an outstanding debt, the total loan under that Act being repayable in twenty years. Under the Loan Act of 1918, debentures have been issued for £26,430. The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £9,822 6*s.* 4*d.*

6. The redemption of the Note Issue of the Bank of Nassau, which was guaranteed by the Government, has been continued, and on the 31st of March, 1919, only £720 18*s.* of the original issue of £6,500 remained unredeemed.

7. The Government account is carried in The Royal Bank of Canada, and on the 31st March, 1919, that bank had in the Colony deposits amounting to £227,250 17*s.* 3*d.*

8. The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold. British currency notes of £1 and 10*s.* denominations are in circulation to the extent of some £40,000.

*A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 849: [Cd. 7622–40.]

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

9. The imports during the year ended 31st March, 1919, were valued at £367,180, a decrease of £126,404 over the previous year.

10. The following table gives the imports of the Colony classified under the heads adopted by the Board of Trade :—

Headings.	*America.*		*United Kingdom.*		*Other Countries.*		*Total.*	
	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live animals, Food, Drink, & Narcotics	228,674	159,340	8,186	6,019	31,446	43,087	268,306	208,446
2. Raw Materials, Other	14,303	10,317	—	—	—	72	14,303	10,389
3. Manufactured Articles:								
Textiles ..	72,875	53,290	15,555	9,645	2,251	2,473	90,681	65,408
Metal ..	34,525	19,192	4,563	1,664	804	315	39,892	21,171
Other ..	65,374	57,694	4,553	2,247	475	1,825	70,402	61,766

11. I am indebted to the Comptroller of Customs for the summary of the share of the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and Foreign Countries in the import trade for the last two years. He has also furnished the interesting data recorded in this section of the report :—

	1917.		1918.	
	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom	42,857	8·7	19,575	5·3
Canada	2,848	·6	6,206	1·7
British Possessions	28,020	5·7	38,046	10·4
America	415,751	84·2	299,833	81·7
Other Countries	4,108	·8	3,520	·9
Total	£493,584		£367,180	

12. To the difficulty of obtaining goods and their high cost, including greatly increased transportation charges, must be attributed the continued falling off of trade with the Mother Country. Imports from Canada show slight improvement, but, as has been pointed out before, until direct communication by a line of steamers is effected, greater progress can hardly be looked for. Trade increased with other British Possessions, mainly Jamaica, in consequence of the restrictions placed on foodstuffs by the United States Government. Rice, sugar, raw coffee, and rum were the chief imports.

Of the total imports, goods to the value of £34,715 or 9·4 per cent. were admitted free of duty ; £129,844 or 34·5 per cent. were subject to an *ad valorem* duty yielding £24,554, and £202,621, or 55·2 per cent. to specific duties yielding £27,886, or a net customs taxation on goods subject to duty of 5·8 per cent., and on the total imports of 14·3 per cent.

(657) Wt.82796/354. 1,250. 4.20. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/14.

EXPORTS.

13. The exports for the year amounted in value to £278,171, of which £268,837 represents the value of local produce. Re-exports amounted in value to £9,334. Compared with the figures of 1917, the value of local produce shows a decrease of £120,188, and £4,118 of re-exports. The large decrease in local produce is due to the small demand for our staple exports, sponge and sisal.

14. The following table shows the direction of the export trade for the last two years :—

	1917.		1918.	
	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom	47,796	11·9	17,378	6·2
America	290,450	72·1	230,049	82·7
Canada	11,554	2·9	4,614	1·7
British West Indies	1,117	·3	2,199	·8
Holland	1,827	·5	——	—
France	41,134	10·2	15,620	5·6
Cuba	6,944	1·7	5,649	2·0
Other Countries	1,655	·4	2,662	1·0
Total	£402,477		£278,171	

15. The increase in the amount of exports to the United Kingdom mentioned in last year's report, was not maintained. There was a decrease in value of these exports of £30,418, or 5·7 per cent. This is accounted for by the short shipments of sponge. The only other commodity shipped during the year was 444 lb. of cotton.

The exports to the United States of America amounted to £230,049, or 82·7 per cent. of the total exports. This is a decrease of £60,000 on the previous year, chiefly in sisal. There was a slight increase in sponges and tomatoes. The chief products shipped were: sisal or Bahamas hemp, 5,839,201 lb., valued at £128,564; sponges, 974,143 lb., of the value of £74,401; preserved pineapples, 16,095 cases, valued at £5,620; tomatoes, 58,970 bushels, valued at £7,275; canned tomatoes of the value of £5,679; grape fruit, valued at £755; conch shells, valued at £1,245, and hides and skins of the value of £140.

The export trade to Canada fell off and showed a disappointing decrease of £6,940, or 1·2 per cent. The principal products shipped were sponges, 7,130 lb., valued at £2,109, as compared with 30,000 lb., valued at £7,037 in the previous year; preserved pineapples, £1,834, as against £3,928; grape fruit, £102, and hides and skins, £279.

Sponge is practically our only export to France, and the quantity exported during the year fell short in value by £25,514, or 4·6 per cent. There was a slight increase over last year's shipments in the exports to British West Indies. 96,233 bushels of salt were shipped to Jamaica.

Small shipments of sponges of the value of £819 were made to Japan. Dried fish to the value of £1,652 went to Haiti. 23,889 bushels of salt of the value of £338, and 567,110 feet of lumber, valued at £1,561, went to Cuba. The renewal of lumbering operations by the Bahamas-Cuban Corporation should result in the next year in a considerable increase of exports to Cuba.

There are very few direct exports from the Out Islands to foreign countries. With the exception of small shipments to Jamaica, nearly all Out Island produce is brought for disposal to the Nassau Market.

16. The total trade of the Colony amounted to :—

Imports	£367,180
Exports	£278,171
	£645,351

Compared with 1917, the decrease was £250,710.

17. The following table gives the total aggregate trade of the Colony for the six years 1913–14–15–16–17–18 :—

Year.	*Imports.* £	*Exports.* £	*Total.* £
1913	398,244	263,954	662,198
1914	367,524	223,491	591,015
1915	363,410	243,431	601,684
1916	475,067	332,679	807,746
1917	493,584	402,477	896,061
1918	367,180	278,171	645,351

Shipping.

18. The nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared were as follows :—

Entered.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	62	6,752	206	10,616	268	17,368
American ..	38	72,617	12	1,160	50	73,777
Other countries	12	11,857	8	211	20	12,068
Total ..	112	91,226	226	11,987	338	103,213

Cleared.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	60	6,548	204	11,143	264	17,691
American ..	37	69,577	13	1,260	50	70,837
Other countries	12	11,857	9	357	21	12,214
Total ..	109	87,982	226	12,760	335	100,742

AGRICULTURE.

19. The Board of Agriculture in their annual report state that there has been a marked improvement in agriculture for the year. The cultivations have been largely extended, the seasons good, and the harvest plentiful.

20. The Board had the benefit of a visit during the year from Sir Francis Watts, Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies. Sir Francis remained two weeks in the Colony and discussed in detail the agricultural situation of the Bahamas, and gave valuable instructions for the cultivation of Bahamas produce. I subjoin extracts from the report of the Board of Agriculture :—

"*Citrus Fruit.*—This industry is practically extinct in New Providence. Nearly all the citrus trees have been destroyed by the blue-gray citrus fly. Rigid restrictions on transportation to the Out-Islands have been enforced by the Board, and up to the present time this pest has been prevented from reaching the other islands, from which were delivered crops of grape-fruit and oranges, most of which were consumed locally as export trade was small.

"*Coconuts.*—A large number of sprouted nuts have been set out this year, especially in the District of Andros. Unusually high prices have been paid for nuts owing to the oil being used in place of imported fats. Many of the people have been made to realize what an excellent article of food the coconut is, and the many ways in which it may be utilised. The Board is urging the planting of coconuts and is supplying nuts at a very small cost.

"*Sisal.*—Sisal cultivations have been extended almost everywhere. The price fell very low during the year and the cultivators have sent smaller quantities to market. There is, however, a large amount held which will be brought to market as soon as the prices rise.

The grading of fibre under the Sisal Inspector has started and it will undoubtedly improve the standard of hand-cleaned sisal. All of the packing houses are co-operating with the inspector, and it is hoped that before long our sisal will be in stronger demand in foreign markets. The export for the year amounted to 7,718,245 lb., valued at £154,231.

"*Corn.*—Much larger areas have been put under cultivation this year, and with the good rainfall a record crop has been harvested. Native Indian and Guinea corn have helped materially in supplying the shortage of imported grain. The acreage in Indian corn is estimated to be the largest in the last decade. The Board awarded prizes for corn from all districts and guaranteed an upset price to the farmers.

"*Potatoes.*—There is a great improvement in the sweet potato crop this year. The potato weevil is diminishing in many places, owing to the carrying out of the Board's instructions, and good crops are reported. Owing to the restrictions on Irish potato seed from the United States smaller quantities of this variety have been planted, but there have been fair crops at some places.

"*Tomatoes.*—Owing to the uncertainty of transportation, many growers were afraid to put out large cultivations of tomatoes, with the result that the crop is smaller than last year. Prices, however, have been good, and those who have made shipments have had very good returns. 38,830 crates have been shipped up to this date.

"*Pigs.*—The breed imported from Jamaica continues to do well, and has met with the approval of all the farmers to whom they were distributed. The sows have given large litters, which were distributed for the improvement of the stock, especially on the Out-Islands. Great improvement has resulted from the crossing of these pigs with the native stock. A new Berkshire boar has been purchased to keep up the strain and prevent inter-breeding.

"There is still room for considerable agricultural development in the Colony, and the lack of quick and frequent interinsular communication and the restricted transportation facilities to the foreign markets will continue to act as deterrents to the proper development of the agricultural resources of the Colony."

FISHERIES.

21. The Marine Products Board reports as follows :—

"*Sponge.*—It was no disappointment to the Board that last year's 'unprecedented demand' was not sustained during the present year, though the sales for the first two months even exceeded the corresponding period for 1917, as January and February of that year equalled £28,936 2*s.* 6*d.*, while the same months for 1918 totalled £28,979 13*s.* 3*d.*, but from then on business declined so rapidly that the difference between 1917 and 1918 amounts to £39,975 0*s.* 5*d.*, the year's grand total being £112,317 2*s.* 10*d.*

"The Board, however, regards this as an excellent return as it must be considered that there were many hindrances to the free operation of the trade, among which were (1) shortage of foodstuffs, which prevented brokers from outfitting and compelled a large percentage of the sponging fleet to lie idle during the seasons; (2) the temporary emigration of over 3,000 men to Charleston.

"The lack of men and provisions, while seriously affecting the industry, has been so far overcome that the year is but £1,000 below 1916, when none of these difficulties were experienced, and far above any other year recorded.

"In addition to these adverse circumstances the trade was further embarrassed by the difficulty in obtaining transport. Rates had risen so high that the buyers were unable to ship the inferior grades, and in consequence were forced into purchasing those varieties at speculative prices; later on in the year transportation to Europe was entirely cut off and the shippers had to depend upon a rather uncertain market in the United States. Yet notwithstanding these restrictions the Board has cause for congratulation on the amount of business done this year.

"*Closures.*—As promised in its last report the Board despatched the Inspector in February last to make a thorough inspection of the Sponge Beds of the Current for the purpose of ascertaining whether, according to the petitions of the people of Eleuthera, they should be thrown open to fishing. Acting on the report of this visit, the beds were opened on May 1st, and the Rule recommended in the Report adopted. The Board has every reason to be satisfied with the result of their experiments in the Current Beds, for, from June to December (7 months) £2,666 11*s.* 3*d.* worth of sponges were sold from them, a large return for such overworked grounds, showing that the period of rest, though limited, and the scattering of shells were not without benefit to the fields.

"It is also interesting to know that the returns include 12,531 current wool, sold by count for £1,496 16*s.* 11*d.*, or an average of nearly 2*s.* 9*d.* each. Some of these sponges sold for over 20*s.* each.

"*Sponge Culture.*—The experimental farm at The Ferry has not been extended but the old plants are thriving and the last report from the caretaker says, 'On November 26th I visited the farm and found that the sponges had made a wonderful growth, some of those planted having a diameter from 8–10 inches, having completely overgrown the discs, and several had fastened to the bottom. Nearly all the sponges are growing in a healthy condition. Sponges are growing apart from the disc, wool, grass, yellow, and reef, and if the area is kept closed the Board will be able to get cuttings from the enclosed area.'

"It would be an interesting and valuable work to re-stock the Bight of Acklins with wool by means of discs. The Acklins wool is the most valuable sponge species in the Bahamas, and is now almost extinct.

If a thousand cuttings of these sponge were set out on discs, in a few years they would, if protected, restock the Bight.

"*Bêche de Mer.*—Deep sea Bêche de Mer fishing was engaged in this year. The catch was cured by Mr. Lowe and forwarded by the Board to Messrs. Loxley & Co., of Hong Kong, who wrote as follows:—'We find the fish to be a totally different variety to any we have seen on the market before, the flesh being of a vivid green colour, whereas the usual colour, that is for deep water fish, is a dirty white, or gray. Then again on letting the fish soak, we found that the specimens dropped to pieces instead of forming a glutinous mass as is the case with other kinds of Bêche de Mer. As our Chinese friends have not seen this variety before and the above mentioned items were rather serious faults in their eyes, we regret that we should be unable to get a better price than about £45 to £55 per ton, at any rate until the fish was known in this market. We should suggest that if you consider it worth while you should send us a small consignment of, say, a few tons in order to test the market. We are forwarding you by even mail three samples of kinds that sell here at about £200 or £300 a ton. We also return two of the samples you have sent us showing green flesh under the skin.'

"This is very encouraging. If Messrs. Loxley & Co. are interested, as their letters and actions indicate, it is because our Bêche de Mer are marketable and are likely to sell to the Chinese trade.

"It should be noted that the 'green flesh' is what is so highly prized in turtle, and it may transpire that our Bêche de Mer prove to be just as popular for the same reason. The Board will assist any who desire to prepare a trial shipment; small catches might be put together, so as to form one large consignment. The fish must be (1) deep water fish, and (2) properly cured. As our waters abound with Bêche de Mer a profitable business could be maintained."

The Out-Islands.

22. The following is a brief résumé of the reports of the Out-Island Commissioners for the year under review:—

Abaco, Green Turtle Cay.—The Sponge Fishery was prosecuted with its usual activity, although somewhat hindered by the employment offered for labourers upon war emergency work at Charleston.

The acreage in sisal was increased, the estimated area put under cultivation being 152 acres. The reduced quantity exported is attributed to the low market prices, and also to the fact that more time has been spent in provision fields.

On the whole, 1918 has not been a bad year in the district, although the prices of imported foodstuffs were high and the supplies often limited, and the market prices of sisal low.

Abaco, Hope Town.—Cherokee Sound has now been included in this District.

Shipowners of the district have done well, owing to the high rates of freight prevailing.

Sponging has largely declined, and the closing down of the Wilson City lumber works has been a great blow to the prosperity of the district.

Some of the residents have done well in fishing. Fish has been carried to the Nassau Market and about £3,000 realised.

The Commissioner reports that there is, perhaps, no district in the Bahamas where the agricultural labourer is so scarce.

Andros, Mangrove Cay.—Local exports of sponge have practically ceased.

There has been an increase in coconut cultivation, but agriculture generally is not followed by residents in the District.

Andros, Nicoll's Town.—Sponges have not sold well during the year. There was a large emigration from this district to Miami and Charleston.

Biminis.—Twenty dinghy boats were built and sold at Nassau.

Food crops were small owing to a drought which visited the district, and the crop of Indian corn was entirely lost. Potato fields were visited by blight. An insect called the "white fly" played havoc with the slips.

There was an exceptionally good crop of guinea corn; and there has been an increase in the cultivation of sisal.

Fifty acres of land are under cultivation in coconuts, but owing to the scarcity of foodstuffs the inhabitants were obliged to use the nuts as a substitute for food.

There is the same cry about the continual emigration from the district to Miami.

Eleuthera, Governor's Harbour.—There was a continual development in the production and export of tomatoes during the year. 35,000 crates were shipped to the foreign markets and 15,915 bushels to local markets. 25,000 dozen pineapples were sold locally.

Irish potatoes were grown to some extent in the district, and generally realise good prices.

Native products such as corn, beans, peas, cassava, and pumpkins have all done well.

The pineapple canning factory belonging to Messrs. A. & A. Griffin was in operation for 52 days of the year. The output was 6,500 cases of pineapples, and 8,500 cases of tomatoes.

Eleuthera, Rock Sound and Tarpum Bay.—This is an entirely agricultural district. The summer crops failed owing to a long continued drought, and the winter crop of Indian corn was also, to a great extent, a failure owing to blight and drought.

In many districts the sweet potato was destroyed by the "potato weevil."

Owing to the lack of transportation facilities, not much cultivation was carried on at Rock Sound and Tarpum Bay.

Praedial larceny was rampant in the Eastern portion of the district.

Exuma.—There was an extensive cultivation of sisal, but the Commissioner reports, however, that the usual native products failed to give any relief to the people because too little ground provisions were planted. The summer crops failed.

Harbour Island.—One small sugar mill was in operation during the year, and made about 700 gallons of syrup.

The district appears to have prospered, vegetables and other field produce obtaining higher prices in the Nassau market than heretofore, and the schooners trading between Harbour Island, Nassau, and Miami made most profitable voyages.

The larger schooners owned in the district, and engaged in freighting lumber from the Southern States of America to Cuba, made excessively large sums of money owing to the high rates of freight caused by the War.

The onion crop was small owing to scarcity of seed, combined with an unsuitable season.

The pineapple crop was a failure owing to the long drought.

Inagua.—About 80,307 bushels of salt were raked, valued at £987 15*s.* 7*d.*

The Raporel Steamship Line, trading with Havana, made several calls at this district during the year, taking from 30 to 40 labourers, according to the size of the ship.

There was little or no cultivation of native products such as corn and vegetables.

Long Cay.—Fairly good crops of corn were harvested. Shipments of sisal increased, and the Commissioner recommends that more attention should be paid to stock raising.

Long Island.—This is and always has been an agricultural district.

The same complaint is made of bad cleaning of sisal. The quantity produced was more, but the amount realised smaller. The estimated area planted was 250 acres.

Very little sponging was done.

The breeding of good sheep is increasing, and there is room for considerable developments in stock raising in this district.

Ragged Island.—The trade with Haiti continued to increase. Fish is taken to Haiti, and in exchange for the fish, corn, coffee, cane syrup, peas, etc., are brought from Haiti. By means of this trade, the Island was well supplied with corn, and the surplus quantities were carried to Nassau and other islands.

The output of mats and baskets for the year was normal. The area under sisal is steadily increasing. There has been no large extended cultivation of coconuts. The salt industry was, in past years, one of the most profitable in the island. A few foreign shipments were made during the early part of the year to Jamaica, and a local boat started trade with Cuba. Local sales of salt amounted to 8,400 bushels, and 16 foreign shipments were made, aggregating 38,240 bushels.

The Commissioner reports that the year was, on the whole, a fairly prosperous one for the district.

Rum Cay.—Agriculture for the year was excellent. Seasons were favourable, and the farmers reaped the largest corn harvest that has ever been known on the island.

San Salvador, Arthur's Town.—There was some improvement in agriculture—more land was planted out, and more trouble appears to have been taken. 600,000 lb. of sisal were shipped in the district.

His Excellency the Governor visited the district in November, and was given a right royal welcome.

It should be mentioned that the district contributed £360 to the Red Cross Fund, an admirable record for a district containing about 5,000 natives.

San Salvador, The Bight.—His Excellency the Governor also visited this district.

Some 150,000 lb. of hand-cleaned fibre was shipped to Nassau, and, owing to successful agricultural seasons, the people of the district experienced no real hardships.

Watlings.—The inhabitants gave their chief attention to farming. The summer crops were affected by a drought, but the winter crop showed good results.

There was a serious epidemic in October, and 41 horses died.

Grand Bahama.—Two sea-planes visited the district in May, and created quite a sensation among the people.

Agriculture in the district is improving.

Manufactures.

23. *Pineapple Canning Factories.*—The exports of tinned pineapples during the last two years were :—

In 1917	..	47,997 cases, valued at	£14,237.
„ 1918	..	22,315 „ „	7,454.

Lands and Forests.

24. The total area of the Colony is estimated to be about 2,850,000 acres, and of this area, 369,463 acres have been sold and granted to private persons.

Considerable progress has been made in overcoming the arrears of work mentioned in the last report, and many of the purchasers have now been supplied with Crown grant documents.

The acreage of ungranted land may appear large, but it is to be remembered that a very considerable portion of it consists of swampy, rocky, or otherwise barren land, unsuitable for agriculture.

The Island of Inagua contains a considerable extent of open country covered with coarse grass, which is partly used for grazing purposes. The difficulty of communication with that island no doubt accounts for the fact that greater use has not been made of the land in Inagua.

On the Island of New Providence, there is an area of about 7 square miles of pine timber land still in the hands of the Crown. The timber land in the vicinity of Cocoa Plum Creek, Abaco, is now being utilised by the Bahamas Timber Company, Limited, of Minneapolis, and considerable lumbering operations are being carried on there.

III.—LEGISLATION.

25. Twenty-two Acts were added to the Statute Book.

The most important of these were the Sisal Inspection and Grading Act, and The Agricultural Students Training Act.

Under the provisions of The Sisal Inspection and Grading Act, every bale of sisal exported from the Colony, must, before export,

be clearly marked in a manner plainly indicating whether it contains inspected or uninspected sisal. Under the rule making power in the Act, the Governor in Council is empowered to make rules for the registration and inspection of stores and baling houses, the registration of marks, stamps, and brands, and the classification and grading of inspected sisal.

The objects of The Agricultural Students Training Act are to enable the Governor in Council to send two boys each year to Jamaica for training in agriculture at Hope Farm or some other similar institution in the Colony of Jamaica. Trained students are bound to return to the Colony and remain for a period of two years, unless the Governor in Council gives permission in writing to the contrary.

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce has been incorporated by a statute passed this year.

IV.—EDUCATION.

26. No new schools have been added to the list during the year. At the end of the year there were 50 board schools, 12 of which are graded as first class, 9 as second class, 14 as third class, and 15 as fourth class.

The pressure of economic conditions was most acutely felt during the year, and there was a further fall off in the average attendance in the board schools.

The teaching staff employed by the Board consisted of 52 principal teachers, 6 assistant teachers, 11 grant-in-aid teachers, 4 pupil teachers, 4 students in training, 11 sewing teachers, and 177 monitors.

The total numbers receiving primary education are 3,484 boys and 3,224 girls, compared with 3,593 boys and 3,418 girls in 1917.

Primary education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14. It is provided by the Government and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of 12 members. Under the chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary, the Board is annually appointed by the Governor. An annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000 is made, out of which school houses, teachers' residences, etc., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. Owing to the great distances of many of the Islands which form the Colony, and to the existence of numerous small settlements long distances apart, the cost of education is greatly increased and the difficulty of maintaining an effective system of primary education largely increased. The teachers' salaries are small, and the finances of the Board do not enable any substantial addition which would improve the personnel.

The average annual cost for each child on the rolls is about 17*s.* 6*d.*, and for each child in average attendance about 28*s.* 7*d.*

The religious denominations maintain a number of schools. 26 are maintained by the Church of England, 5 of which are in New Providence. The average roll is 1,238. The Roman Catholics maintain 4 schools, with a total roll of about 407. There are 14 private schools with a roll of 184.

No provision is made by the Colony for secondary education, and this seems to be a blot on our educational system. Higher instruction is, however, provided at the following schools :—

Name of School.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	59	54	113
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England)	15	—	15
St. Hilda's High School	20	44	64
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	20	35	55
Total	114	133	247

A night school is kept in the Church Hall, attached to the Cathedral, under the supervision of the Reverend C. B. Crofts.

The following table gives statistics of the primary schools. They do not include private and denominational schools :—

	Board Schools.				Grant-in-Aid Schools.				Totals.			
Year.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number.	Pupils.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
1917	49	7,787	6,177	4,781	13	1,008	834	651	62	8,795	7,011	5,432
1918	50	7,360	5,975	4,449	12	822	733	568	62	8,182	6,708	5,017

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

27. The Bahamas General Hospital (originally established in 1809 as a poor-house), comprises the hospital proper, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper wards.

The number of inmates on 1st January, 1918, was :—

	Males.	Females.
Alexandra Hospital	40	31
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary ..	15	10
Lunatic Asylum	20	15
Leper Wards	4	—
	79	56

During the year 1918 there were 765 admissions, making a total under treatment of 900, of whom 315 were discharged, recovered ; 250 relieved, and 131 died.

The number of paupers receiving rations on 1st January, 1918, was 150 in Nassau, and 187 in the Out-Islands.

The institution is managed by a Board appointed annually by the Governor. There is a resident surgeon, and the Chief Medical Officer acts in an advisory capacity.

Savings Bank.

28. During the year ended 30th June, 1918, deposits amounting to £8,192 8*s*. 9*d*., and withdrawals amounting to £8,000 8*s*. 10*d*. were made, an excess of £191 19*s*. 11*d*. in deposits over withdrawals.

The amount due to the Government for advances from the Treasury was reduced from £4,370 7*s*. 2*d*. to £3,077 8*s*. 2*d*., by the sale of £1,167 10*s*. 7*d*. War Loan securities, realising £1,092 19*s*.

The total liabilities amounted to £27,924 16*s*. 1*d*., assets to £33,379 0*s*. 9*d*., and an estimated surplus of £1,680 14*s*. 2*d*., based on the investments and the approximate market value of same.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

29. The births in 1918 numbered 1,921, as against 2,134 in 1917. The deaths were 888, as against 1,130 in 1917. The birth-rate was 34.3, and death-rate 15.8.

The estimated population on 1st January, 1918, was 59,049.

Births, 1918	1,921	
Deaths, 1918	888	
Add excess of births		1,033
		60,082

No census of colour has ever been taken.

313 marriages were registered—101 less than in 1917.

Notwithstanding an epidemic of chicken pox, from which very few fatalities resulted, the public health of the Colony was, on the whole, good. There were a few cases of typhoid fever. Owing to a vigorous and stringent quarantine against incoming vessels, the Colony was fortunately spared the ravages of Spanish influenza.

Dr. A. H. B. Pearce took over the duties of Chief Medical Officer in March in succession to Dr. J. Baird Albury, who had been acting on half salary for a considerable time.

No steps have yet been taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission which was appointed to enquire into and report on the prevalence of venereal diseases, but it is hoped that early action will be taken.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS.

30. The following are the meteorological data for the past two years :—

Year.	Temperature.			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall.
	7 30 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	inches
1917	76·0	78·4	77·2	77·8	72·1	84·5	62·0	37·51
1918	76·2	78·2	77·1	88·1	71·6	85·3	61·4	49·35

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

POSTAL.

31. The revenue for the year amounted to £13,111 1*s*. 2*d*., an increase of £8,185 16*s*. 5*d*. over the preceding year. It is by far the largest revenue ever raised in the Postal Service of the Colony, and for the first time in its history the Department has not only paid its way by meeting the estimated expenditure of £7,725, including the cost of mail services with which it is charged, but has earned the clear surplus of £5,000 for assisting the general revenue. This has been accomplished in the absence of large appropriations for foreign mail services. The increase in the letter rate of postage to the United States and the imposts levied under The War Tax Stamp Act realized about £1,500.

The increase in revenue was derived almost entirely from the sales of stamps, particularly to stamp dealers abroad.

The expenditure made direct from postal revenue amounted to £1,234 3*s*. 11*d*., a net increase of £70 3*s*. 3*d*. over the year before.

The total number of postal packets, except parcels, received and despatched was 622,254, a decrease of 76,286, mainly accounted for by the absence of a tourist season.

2,921 money and postal orders of the value of £3,573 16*s*. 8*d*. were issued, and 5,480 money and postal orders of the value of £13,366 17*s*. 8*d*. were paid. The total number of parcels received and sent to the United Kingdom and United States of America was 7,040, of the value of £17,358 3*s*. 3*d*.

The increased letter rate of postage to the United States remains effective. There were no external subsidised services during the year. Mails have been received direct from New York by unsubsidised steamers of the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company, and more generally via Miami, Florida, by vessels locally owned.

The cost of interinsular mail services continues to increase in consequence of the greater expense entailed in operating the vessels.

It is hoped th in the near future it may be possible to give better interinsular transportation by motor vessels, a matter which is urgently required if there is to be any effective development of agriculture in the Colony. Such a service would also undoubtedly tend to more efficient Out-Island administration.

Telegraphs.

32. The working of the Radio Station was satisfactory and practically continuous during the year. Schedules were maintained with the Admiralty Station in Jamaica thrice daily, excepting during periods of atmospheric disturbances.

In December the United States Radio Service placed its Miami, Florida, Station at our service, which enabled the work to be accomplished with even greater satisfaction and promptitude than previously with the Key West Station.

Owing to the resignation of resident operators, there was an entire change in the operating staff of the department.

The revenue showed an increase over that of the previous year and there was a decrease in expenditure.

Telephones.

33. The financial history of this department continues highly satisfactory. Starting some 12 years ago on borrowed capital, about £2,200, the department has not only repaid all but £360 of the loan from its earnings, but from the same source has defrayed the cost of wires, instruments, poles, labour, etc., necessary for increasing the number of subscribers from 150 to more than 400. There are 412 telephones on the system. The revenue was £1,492 15*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenditure £1,135 2*s.* 4*d.* including £160 for repayment of loan, £13 interest.

A total of 681,238 calls was registered, average daily calls being 1,866, and the maximum one day total 4,237.

Electric Light.

34. Due to failure in obtaining a new storage battery, and the continued erratic working of the producers during the year, the service to the public was not up to the standard of former years.

The coal famine in January necessitated a hurried visit of the Superintendent to the United States, where he was fortunately able to effect immediate delivery of a battery and to obtain a small supply of coal for immediate needs.

Owing to the restricted hours during which electricity was available for public use during a considerable portion of the year, the revenue of the department fell slightly below the estimates, while the expenditure was largely increased consequent on the extremely high cost of coal and the purchase of the storage battery, which cost over £1,500.

The revenue for the year amounted to £5,072 16*s.* 3*d.*, including the balance of £1,139 3*s.* 10*d.* brought forward. The expenditure was £5,960 7*s.* 6*d.*, including repayment of loan (£666 13*s.* 4*d.*), and interest (£460), and the cost of the new battery (£1,528 4*s.* 9*d.*).

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Development of the Colony.

35. I append extracts from the report of the Development Board :—

"The conditions consequent upon the War continued throughout the year still further intensified by the entire suspension of passenger transportation between this Colony and New York and the prohibitive restrictions placed by the United States Government on the issuing of passports and permits to leave or enter that country.

"While mail service was carried on by freight boats from New York and by motor boats to and from Miami, the accommodations supplied by them for passengers were in no way conducive to bringing visitors to Nassau, even when permitted by the restrictions above mentioned.

"The signing of the Armistice, however, while relieving the tensely nervous situation, came too late to affect tourist traffic, nor did it appreciably release any shipping. The hotels remained closed, and few but regular visitors and property owners were seen here this season.

"The Board came to the conclusion therefore that any efforts made towards advertising would be futile, and devoted its efforts only to the improvement and beautifying of Nassau for the appreciation of future tourists.

"During the summer the Board undertook to improve the appearance of the roads by planting out on frontages in private grounds a considerable quantity of Bougainvillœa, Hibiscus, Poinsettia, Oleander, and Casuarina, also an avenue of the last named in Nassau Court, facing the Hotel Colonial ; and further a decorative wind shield of coconut trees from Fort Montagu eastward for half a mile.

"Further inducements to improve the appearance of our streets and roads were given by the awarding of garden prizes for the best frontages, neatness, and general effect of gardens and yards."

War Contingent.

36. During the year under review no further contingents were sent for active service in the British West Indies Regiment. Twenty-nine members of the contingents were returned to the Colony as medically unfit.

Effect of the War upon the Colony.

37. The Colony continued to feel the same effects with regard both to its imports and exports as had been experienced during the previous year, and subsequent to the entry of the United States of America into the War. Transportation difficulties became, if possible, more acute, and the cost of essential food supplies of the Colony continued to rise. A vigorous food campaign, however, assisted by the efforts of the Board of Agriculture, to some extent minimised the difficulties which had been created.

Emigration.

38. The figures for the past two years relating to Florida are as follows :—

Year.	Out.			In.			Excess of Outs (+) or Ins (—).		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1917 .	1,147	603	1,750	1,524	566	2,090	— 377	+ 37	—340
1918 .	2,977	544	3,521	1,069	327	1,396	+ 1,908	+ 217	+ 2,125

ADMINISTRATION.

39. Not many official changes took place during the year. Dr. A. H. B. Pearce, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), assumed the duties of Chief Medical Officer in March last.

On two occasions Mr. H. E. W. Grant, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, acted as Deputy Governor during the temporary absence of His Excellency Sir William Lamond Allardyce, K.C.M.G.

The Colony lost a valuable official in the course of the year in the person of Mr. T. E. D. Brace, who had held the office of Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department for fifteen years, and had on many occasions acted as Colonial Secretary.

In February of 1918, a commission was appointed, under the presidency of Sir Daniel Tudor, K.C., Kt., to report and make recommendations on the question of assistance to discharged soldiers.

F. C. WELLS DURRANT,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas.

16th January, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
997	Basutoland	1917–1918
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	,,
1001	Hong Kong	,,
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	,,
1004	Malta	,,
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	,,
1007	Ceylon	,,
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	,,
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1012	Ashanti	,,
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	,,
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	,,
1019	Bermuda	,,
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	,,
1025	Cyprus	,,
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey. 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils. &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Barclay & Fry, Ltd., Southwark, London, S E. 1.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1059.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1919–20.

(For Report for 1918–19 see No. 1033.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1921.

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and
28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER;
1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.
1921.

[Cmd. 1103-2.] *Price 2d. Net.*

No. 1059.

BAHAMAS.

*REPORT BY THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1920.

Note.—The figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1920, with Trade and Customs for the year ended 31st December, 1919 (as desired by the Board of Trade).

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue was £204,296, as compared with £81,049 in 1918–19, an increase of £123,247.

2. The increase in Customs revenue, as shown in the following statement, was due partly to increased taxation which came into operation in June, and partly to large whisky importations, the outcome of prohibition in the United States.

3. The following statement gives the Customs receipts for six years :—

	£
1914–15	61,597
1915–16	71,158
1916–17	76,665
1917–18	72,011
1918–19	61,827
1919–20	165,504

4. The expenditure was £108,939, as against £98,237 in 1918–19, an increase of £10,702.

5. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past six years :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*	
	£	£	£
1914–15	76,911	102,203	−25,292
1915–16	86,251	90,925	− 4,674
1916–17	90,472	97,213	− 6,741
1917–18	86,767	105,254	−18,487
1918–19	81,049	98,236	− 17,187
1919–20	204,296	108,939	+95,357

Assets and Liabilities.

6. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1920, was £138,354, and on 31st March, 1919, was £37,830.

Debt.

7. The Public Debt bearing interest at 4, 4½, 5 and 5½ per cent. was originally £173,126, and now stands at £65,962.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £10,580.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622–10].

Currency and Banking.

8. The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold.

United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender, but are accepted if of $5 and upwards at the same rate as United States gold.

British currency notes of the £1 and 10s denominations are also in circulation.

The Royal Bank of Canada, which carries the Government account, on 31st March, 1920, had in the Colony deposits amounting to £471,602.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

9. The imports during the year 1919 were valued at £539,242, as against £367,180 in 1918—an increase of £172,062.

10. Classified under the headings adopted by the Board of Trade the imports were :—

Headings.	United States.		United Kingdom.		Other Countries		Total.	
	1918.	1919.	1918.	1919.	1918.	1919.	1918.	1919.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics	159,340	209,811	6,019	18,799	43,087	66,036	208,446	294,646
2. Raw Materials	10,317	22,646	—	—	72	613	10,389	23,259
3. Manufactured Articles—								
Textiles ..	53,290	74,751	9,645	6,347	2,473	1,523	65,408	82,621
Metal ..	19,192	21,322	1,664	1,406	315	51	21,171	22,779
Other ..	57,694	107,392	2,247	7,627	1,825	918	61,766	115,937
Total ..£	299,833	435,922	19,575	34,179	57,772	69,141	367,180	539,242

11. The factors responsible for the enormous increase in the value of imports were the large purchases in foreign countries of goods that were unobtainable during war years, and the greatly augmented prices of the same. The abnormal quantities of spirit importations, the outcome of prohibition in the United States, also contributed largely in swelling the total.

High freight rates and the lack of transportation facilities militated largely against trade with the United Kingdom. The slight increase is due to imports of spirits and wines.

Trade with other countries shows an improvement, due mainly to shipments of whisky from Canada during the latter part of the year.

Of the total value of imports for the year the value of ad valorem totalled £197,451 or 36·6 per cent. ; specific, £290,603 or 53·9 per cent. ; and free £51,188 or 9·5 per cent.

Exports.

12. The value of exports was £382,140 as against £278,171 in 1918. This increase was made up as follows :—

	£
Produce of the Colony ..	102,127
Re-exports	1,842
Increase	£103,969

(7579). Wt. 29921/587 2/21. 1,250 D.St.

13. The figures for the last five years grouped under the Board of Trade classification are as follows :—

	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Class I.	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics..	11,581	20,207	25,629	25,009	22,844
Class II.					
Raw materials	225,981	304,508	363,195	243,476	334,675
Class III.					
Manufactured articles ..	5,869	7,964	13,653	9,686	24,621
Class IV.					
Specie	—	—	—	—	—
Total	£243,431	332,679	402,477	278,171	382,140

14. Sisal, 6,343,163 lbs., valued at £85,131, showed an increase in quantity to the extent of 502,162 lbs., but a decrease in value of £43,433. Sponge showed large increases both in quantity and value.

15. The total sponge output for the year was 1,699,679 lbs. valued at £204,437, as compared with 619,499 lbs. valued at £107,622 in 1918.

16. The following table shows the direction of the export trade for each of the years 1918 and 1919 :—

	1918.	*Per Cent.*		1919.	*Per Cent.*
	£			£	
United Kingdom ..	17,378	6·2	..	63,221	16·54
United States	230,049	82·7	..	243,320	63·67
Canada	4,614	1·7	..	3,219	1·82
Br. West Indies.. ..	2,199	·8	..	2,633	·68
Holland	—	—	..	29,671	7·77
France	15,620	5·6	..	33,164	8·7
Other Countries.. ..	8,311	3	..	6,912	1·83
	£278,171			£382,140	

17. The Exports to the United Kingdom increased in value £45,843, or 10·34 per cent., due to larger shipments of sponge and tortoise-shell.

18. Exports to the United States of America, the chief market for the Colony's products, amounted to £243,320 or 63·67 per cent. of the total exports, an increase of £132,271 over last year. The chief exports were :—

		£
Bahamas hemp (Sisal) (6,341,363 lbs.)	value	85,131
Sponge (841,884 lbs.)	,,	108,901
Pineapples (preserved) (24,395 cases) ..	,,	7,591
Tomatoes (37,287 bushels)	,,	5,095
Conch shells	,,	2,345
Fish, fresh	,,	1,723
Peas	,,	1,490
Hides	,,	1,298
Pineapples (11,980 doz.)	,,	1,290
Bark	,,	1,060
Woods	,,	982

19. Exports to Canada showed a decrease of £3,328. Chief exports were :—

	£
Pineapples (preserved)	1,843
Sponge	910

20. France and Holland showed large increases, almost entirely of sponge, over last year's takings. The exports for the two years were :—

	1918.	1919.	*Increase.*
	£	£	£
France	15,620	33,164	17,544
Holland	—	29,671	29,671

21. Exports to British West Indies were 75,753 bushels of salt, valued at £1,264, shipped to Jamaica—a decrease of almost 21,000 bushels on last year's output. Other articles, value £1,369.

22. Other countries. Small shipments of sponges were made to Belgium, value £878, and Japan, £577. Also a shipment of shell to Italy valued at £3,315. Dried fish to the value of £1,375 went to Haiti. Exports to Cuba amounted to £437.

23. The total trade of the Colony for the last seven years was as follows :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£
1913	398,244	263,954	662,198
1914	367,524	223,491	591,015
1915	363,410	243,431	601,684
1916	475,067	332,679	807,746
1917	493,584	402,447	896,061
1918	367,180	278,171	645,351
1919	539,242	382,140	921,382

The total increase of trade was £27 ,031 as compared with 1918.

24. The nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared were as follows :—

Entered.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	125	5,474	186	10,437	311	15,911
United States	151	54,913	23	3,108	174	58,021
Other Countries ..	6	4,067	1	182	7	4,249
Total	282	64,454	210	13,727	492	78,181

Cleared.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	122	5,613	189	11,574	311	17,187
United States	149	57,901	19	1,802	168	59,703
Other Countries	7	4,249	—	—	7	4,249
Total	278	67,763	208	13,376	486	81,139

Agriculture.

25. I subjoin extracts from the report of the Agricultural Board :—

" It has been established beyond a doubt that tomatoes of superior quality can be produced in New Providence in any quantity desired. Over 400 acres have been put under cultivation during the year and so far as the growing of the crop is concerned everyone interested is satisfied with the result and the prospect is that in the coming season the acreage will be increased threefold.

" Unfortunately the season has not been a success financially. Complete breakdown of transportation facilities has caused serious loss to all the exporters, and this is all the more to be regretted because during the whole season very favourable prices have been realised for any shipment that reached a market in good condition.

" Number of crates tomatoes exported—145,000. Value £25,000.

" In addition to this 8,500 cases have been packed, valued at £5,000.

" The J. S. Johnson Co. have made a beginning in packing tomatoes with the hope of supplying the Jamaica and Cuba markets and, if successful, this Company will be in a position to take care of all the ripe tomatoes, which otherwise would go to waste, and incidentally provide remunerative employment to a large number of women and girls during the winter months.

" *Out Islands Exhibitions.*—In accordance with a plan outlined by the Board, exhibitions of local produce have been held in several outlying districts and from the reports to hand they have been very successful. Much enthusiasm was manifest and a spirit of healthy competition has been created which should bring about some measure of the result aimed at by the Board. It is proposed to continue these exhibitions during the coming year.

" *Citrus Trees.*—About the middle of summer the disease, the spiny citrus white fly (*Aleurocanthus Woglumi*) made its appearance among the citrus fruit trees at Spanish Wells and the Current, Eleuthera. The Secretary was immediately sent to the scene and while there he sprayed the infested areas, spraying altogether about 1,000 trees. On his second visit to these settlements he reported that his first spraying had apparently been successful, as the disease was found on about 20 trees only, but as a safeguard the whole area was again sprayed. The situation is well in hand.

" *Coconuts.*—The Board has supplied the Commissioners at Cat Island with coconuts, to be disposed of at a small price to those who are desirous of planting them.

" *Bees.*—With the idea of encouraging the production of honey the Board imported four colonies of Italian bees, together with a small quantity of bee supplies for the convenience of those starting in the business. Up to the time of writing the imported bees are doing well and the Board hopes from these parent colonies to establish apiaries on many of the Out Islands as well as in New Providence.

" *Avacado Pears.*—During the Avacado pear season the Board made an attempt with posters of calling attention to the advisability of saving every seed and planting them so as to secure a continued and increased supply of this wholesome and delicious food. We have reason to believe that some measure of success was attained and that many thousand were put in nurseries and have since been transplanted.

" *Sheep.*—Three Southdown-Shropshire rams have been imported for the purpose of improving the breed of stock in the colony. Much more could be done along this line if the Board was more liberally supplied with funds.

" *Seeds.*—The Board has kept on hand for sale at cost and free distribution a supply of vegetable seed of every variety. The onion seed, in spite of every precaution, again came late and as a result the crop will l[illegible]ry small. We have been pleased to note an increased amount of [illegible]n truck raised in New Providence and think we are safe in sayi[illegible]hat the prospect for the coming year is bright and encouraging. If transportation can be secured the Colony will soon have a well-established export trade in winter vegetables of many kinds."

Fisheries.

26. The following are extracts from the report of the Marine Products Board :—

" *Sponge Trade.*—The effect of the hurricane of 8th September was severely felt in the December market. Many of the fleet were permanently disabled ; others, though not so badly damaged, could not be repaired in time for the November outfitting and beyond this the storm had so disturbed the ' mud ' that every heavy wind caused an unusual muddying of the water, making sponging impossible in the affected parts.

" The fleet was further weakened by the sale of many of its units to speculators, who made use of them in freighting tomatoes to Miami and material to Bimini, where extensive works are in progress.

" Another adverse feature was the extreme ruling of foreign exchange. Buyers for European houses were handicapped by a premium of 18–23 per cent. against them, exchange fluctuating between those points during the last quarter of the year. This adverse charge would have reacted very seriously on the trade had it not been that the American buyers had the exchange in their favour, which made prices for No. 1 goods of all varieties high, while the cheaper lines, which are largely used in Europe, suffered accordingly.

" Apart from these adventitious circumstances the demand was brisk and the prices high, so that if the catch had been normal the volume of business would have exceeded any previous December season, but for the reasons given above the sales for December were £16,710 13s. 5d., the lowest return for that month since the year 1908.

" The total sales for the year, however, are not far behind the large years of the War, they amounting to £110,569 5s. 3d., which is but £1,739 19s. 4d. less than 1918.

" The outlook for the future is bright. Whereas in 1918 there were but eight buyers, this year closes with twelve in the market, all of whom are eager and profitable clients.

" There has been a marked shortage of mud rollers, due to causes already defined, so that the trade was forced to deal heavily in other varieties, thereby causing the abnormal rise in prices, which cannot be maintained when the mud is properly settled and the crippled fleet restored to its full strength. The Board, however, is quite confident that the coming year will be as prosperous as any previous year in the past.

"*Closures.*—The Bight of Acklins was closed to fishing for three years from the 1st August. This valuable sponge field has been the object of the Board's serious attention and this will make the third closure. The first closure was from March, 1909, to January, 1913, and the sales from the Bight from that year were nearly £4,000, but so soon was the good effect of its three years' rest dissipated that the Board closed it for a second time from the 1st January, 1914, to 1st January, 1917. On this occasion, due to the prompt action of the Board, the results were far more encouraging, the sales amounting to between £6,000 and £7,000 sterling. Again the Board has closed the Bight and, acting on the promise made in their last report, have endeavoured to restock the Bight with the valuable *equina gossypina* variety, a sponge that nearly resembles the Mediterranean sponge and is not far behind it in commercial value. The Board deems this work of so much importance that they have instructed the Secretary to prepare a memorial, especially dealing with the Bight and Board's intentions with regard to restocking it with *equina gossypina*.

"*Sponge Culture.*—The Board has already begun the work with which the memorial deals and nearly two thousand plants have been set out which, from the last reports (24th December), were progressing favourably. The Board has demonstrated that sponge culture is not only possible but profitable, and in their new departure expect to derive the utmost possible benefit from the discovery. Any sceptic can be convinced by examining the three sponges grown at the Ferry Farm, to which the Secretary has paid particular care, as may be proven by his numerous reports on that farm.

"*Turtle Shell.*—The Board is pleased to justify their prophecy made last year concerning this marine product. It said then 'The Turtle Shell Industry seems likely to recover rapidly from the stagnation caused by the War.' There has been nothing so spectacular as the sudden rise in prices for this product. The supply was liberal, but the demand was unbounded, so that prices soared to extraordinary heights, some shell selling for over £10 per pound in the local market, while bold reddish fetched over £18 per pound in London marts.

"Whether the coming season will maintain these excessive figures is doubtful. The shell will not be so plentiful nor will local buyers be ready to risk as recklessly as they did in the excited market of the past middle season. But we can expect a healthy trade in shell for the year.

"*Other Marine Products.*—Until the adjustment of steamship connections and the financial balance is restored, it is idle to talk of other products practically. Shell, bêche de mer, pearls are all inactive. The Board's efforts have drawn attention to bêche de mer and several enquiries have reached the Board from foreign dealers, but the Board is satisfied that it has done its duty and more for that particular product. It is now left to private enterprise to take up the matter and find out what can be done to make it an export of the island.

"While insignificant, yet it is worthy of notice that lobster tails have been added to our exports. These crustacea are captured and their tails severed and cured. They are shipped to France, packed in barrels. But one consignment of eight barrels has gone forward so far, but there are other shipments in preparation and the Board will deal more largely with this matter in its next report.

"A Company called The Bahamas Fishery Company has been engaged during the summer in purchasing entire catches from our fishermen and conveying them on ice to the Miami markets. A considerable trade was carried on during the summer, but for several months the Company has not been operating, owing, it is alleged, to a lack of supply. The Board has no doubt that with improved and more extensive methods of fishing the Colony could supply fish all the year through.

"*Memorandum* re *Bight of Acklins*.—The Bight of Acklins is one of the most valuable and fertile of the numerous sponge fields of our waters. For years this field furnished material for eight sponge firms who all had depôts at Acklins or Long Cay and dealt in the extremely fine products of the Bight.

"Over-fishing, the direct cause of the great demand, soon exhausted the beds. Firm after firm closed its doors, until in 1909, when the Board's attention was called to the Bight, but one of the firms remained.

"The closures (3) which have been imposed on the Bight since the year named have done much to increase and preserve the grades known as Reef (Tubilijera), Hardhead (Dura), Yellow (Colosia), and Grass (Gramissea), all of which are the finest to be found in the Bahamas waters.

"But the output of Wool (*equina gossypina*) has been so negligible as to escape attention. They could not be found on the Bight, though they once abounded. The Board, therefore, resorted to restocking the Bight by means of sponge culture. In the year 1918 the report read: 'It would be an interesting and valuable work to restock the Bight of Acklins by means of discs.'

"The Board's plans are to plant extensively and to allow them to gestate and stock the surrounding waters.

"By a regular series of openings and closings at intervals of six months and one year respectively, it is firmly believed that the Bight will gradually recover from the severe handling which it has suffered in the past 25 years of merciless and unscientific treatment."

Manufactures.

27. *Pineapple canning factories.*—The export of tinned pineapples during the last five years:—

			£
1915	21,756 cases, valued at		5,550
1916	38,807	,, ,, ,,	10,983
1917	47,997	,, ,, ,,	14,237
1918	22,315	,, ,, ,,	7,454
1919	18,604	,, ,, ,,	5,200

28. *Lumber Mills.*—The Bahamas Cuban Company at Abaco milled 1,100,883 ft. of pine.

29. *Salt.*—Inagua contains extensive salt pans which in olden days were a source of considerable revenue to the Crown by way of royalties. A company has been formed for reopening the salt trade, and operations will be commenced by the middle of 1920.

The output for 1919 was 168,000 bushels. Salt-raking is engaged in at Ragged Island also.

Lands and Forests.

30. There were 301 grants of Crown land during 1919 for 1,293½ acres. Approximately 370,876 acres have been sold and 2,429,284 acres remain ungranted. It is not the policy of the Government to sell any more Crown lands, except for building or other special purposes, until arrangements can be made for surveying them. The Government is, however, prepared to grant leases on reasonable terms.

There is an area of about seven square miles in New Providence on which pine trees grow. The terms on which concessions, for cutting pine timber and extracting rosin and turpentine from trees on Crown land, may be made, can be obtained on application to the Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.

The pine-bearing land at Abaco, as well as the right to cut timber on Andros and Grand Bahama, has been conceded for a lengthy term to an American company—the Bahamas Timber Company, Limited.

III.—LEGISLATION.

31. Thirty-two Acts were added to the Statute Book.

The Tariff Act was amended by imposing a higher rate of duties.

The increased cost of living made it necessary to further augment the salaries of public officers.

The issue of Government Paper Currency was authorised.

IV.—EDUCATION.

32. The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 52 principal teachers, 5 assistant teachers, 5 pupil teachers, 34 monitors, 11 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 15 employed in aided school.

33. The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table :—

	1918.			1919.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools	3,095	2,880	5,975	2,817	3,041	5,858
Aided Private Schools ..	389	344	733	419	456	875
Church of England	556	682	1,238	475	556	1,031
Roman Catholic	181	226	407	201	260	461
Baptist	—	—	—	34	52	86
Private Schools	86	98	184	170	213	446
Total	4,307	4,230	8,527	4,116	4,578	8,757

34. Primary education is compulsory between the ages of six and fourteen years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of twelve members (under the Chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary) appointed annually by the Governor. The Board received an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000 out of which school houses, teachers' residences, etc., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. In addition to the annual grant, the Board received

from the Treasury for the augmentation of teachers' salaries the sum of £912 during the year under review. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements, long distances apart, on the various islands, themselves separated many miles. The average cost for each child on the rolls is 17s. 6d., and for each child in average attendance £1 9s. 9d.

35. There is still no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows :—

Name of School.	No. of Boys.	No. of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan) ..	55	54	109
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England) ..	20	—	20
St. Hilda's High School (Church of England)	19	44	63
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic) ..	22	31	53
Total	116	129	245

There is also a night school with 24 pupils, under the supervision of the Rev. C. B. Crofts.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

36. The Bahamas General Hospital (originally established in 1809 as a poor-house) comprises the hospital proper, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and wards.

The number of inmates on 1st January, 1919, was :—

Alexandra Hospital	42 males	33 females
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary ..	15 ,,	16 ,,
Lunatic Asylum	24 ,,	19 ,,
Leper Wards	5 ,,	1 ,,
Totals	86 males	69 females

37. During the year 1919 there were 742 admissions, making a total under treatment of 897, of whom 278 were discharged recovered, 288 relieved, 36 unchanged and 155 died.

38. The number of paupers receiving rations on 1st January last was 261 in Nassau and 234 in the Out-Islands.

39. The institution is managed by a Board appointed annually by the Governor.

Savings Bank.

40. During the year ended 30th June, 1919, 3,885 deposits, amounting to £11,130, and 3,405 withdrawals, amounting to £9,239 were made, an excess of £1,891 over withdrawals.

The number of depositors on 30th June, 1919, was 2,796, including 581 dead and unclaimed accounts. The balance due to depositors was £27,396.

The total liabilities amounted to £27,396, assets to £33,223, and an estimated surplus of £5,827 based on the investments at their approximate market value.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

41. The births in 1919 numbered 2,001 as against 1,921 in 1918. The deaths were 1,002 as against 888 in 1918. The birth-rate was 35·7, and the death-rate 17·9 per 1,000.

42. The estimated population on 1st January, 1919, was 60,082

Births, 1919	2,001	
Deaths, 1919	1,002	
Add excess of births		999
		61,081
Emigrants exceeded immigrants by ..		3,243
Estimated population on 1st January, 1920		57,838

43. The public health of the Colony was good. No serious epidemic prevailed. There were mild epidemics of influenza and German measles in November. There was also an epidemic of typhoid but mortality was low.

Meteorological Statistics.

44. The following are the meteorological data for the past three years :—

Year.	Temperature			Means of		Extremes of		Rainfall, inches.
	7.30 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	
1917	76·0	78·4	77·2	77·8	72·1	84·5	62·0	37·51
1918	76·2	78·2	77·1	88·1	71·6	85·3	61·4	49·35
1919	77·2	78·2	77·7	81·4	72·4	85·6	60·0	46·53

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

45. The postal revenue for 1919–20 was £14,263, as compared with £13 111 in the previous year. The increase was largely due to the active demand for the temporary issues of stamps (War and Peace) for philatelic purposes.

46. The exchange problem has adversely affected the Money Order service both with the United States and the United Kingdom. In the case of the former the high rate charged for commission on orders sold is prohibitive, and with respect to the latter exchange is obtainable from the Royal Bank of Canada at par against a Post Office rate of nearly 2½ per cent.

47. The War Tax Stamp Act which imposed an increased rate of postage on letters for transmission to other parts of the Empire was repealed on the 11th March and the rate now reverts to one penny per ounce.

48. The total cost of the postal service, including Foreign and Interinsular Mail services, amounted to £8,559, being £5,704 less than the postal revenue for the year.

Telegraphs.

49. The financial return for the year shows that the business handled and revenue derived was by far the greatest in the history of the department, and the outlook for continuation of increased revenue is very bright.

The revenue for the year was £4,800. 10,130 telegrams were received and despatched.

Telephones.

50. There are 420 telephones on the system. The revenue was £1,492 4s., and the expenditure £1,046 15s. 8d., including £160 for repayment of loan and £9 interest.

Electric Light.

51. Revenue £4,103 6s. 11d., expenditure £4,181, including repayment on loan £666 13s. 4d. and interest £440. The cost of coal and other material continued to advance throughout the year.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

52. *The Development of the Colony.*—I append extracts from the report of the Development Board :—

" The unfortunate situation of the last few years as to difficulties of transportation consequent upon the War, and the dearth of vessels both for the New York and Southern services, was early recognized and every effort made to obtain assurances from the Ward Line and the Florida East Coast Hotel Company as to both steamship and hotel services, all of which were unavailing.

" The Hotel Company required a weekly South-bound Ward Service to insure the opening of their hotels, but the latter was unable to guarantee the same for want of ships being released by the United States Government.

" During the visit to Nassau of Major Kitchener of the Avro Company, England, the question of an aerial service between Miami and Nassau was taken up and strongly endorsed by the Board, the Board being prepared to assist the service with its funds. This matter is still in abeyance.

" The Board was early compelled to take up the subject of the movement of the tomato crop and, there being no service with Jacksonville, the foreign investors or companies decided on Miami as their port of transhipment, a decision which was necessarily acquiesced in by local interests, when New York steamers were not to hand.

" Although the House of Assembly had definitely expressed itself as being satisfied that the transportation of the tomato crop could be taken care of locally, it soon became apparent that the facilities for the shipment to Miami were totally inadequate. The Board thereupon advertised for tenders for a motor boat service to convey tomatoes from Eleuthera to Miami, but from the outset met with many difficulties, the number of such craft in the Colony being insufficient, especially as American investors were simultaneously calling for similar vessels.

" Thus tomato shippers were thrown back on the few motor boats here, and, ultimately, on sailing craft.

" In connection with this industry the Board has strongly suggested to the Government the establishment of wireless telegraphic communication with Eleuthera as a *sine quâ non* of success.

" The Board, on the subject being referred to them by the Government, strongly advocated the establishment of lights and buoys in the North-West Passage to insure safe and easy navigation to and from Miami.

" The Out Island Mail service received close attention and a scheme for an inter-insular steam service was laid before the Government.

" During the year there was no advertising propaganda undertaken by the Board in view of the hotels not opening, but a pamphlet was printed and is being circulated with full information on the Bahamas for " Intending Settlers."

" More correspondence was received from all over the American continent, showing that the Colony is getting to be more widely known ; replies to these enquiries having been furnished.

" Weather reports were daily forwarded by wireless and published by the *New York Herald.*"

The Out Islands.

53. The following is a brief résumé of the reports of the Out Island Commissioners :—

Abaco.—In the Green Turtle Cay district machinery valued at £3,590 was imported for the erection of a saw-mill at Norman's Castle.

The following are particulars of the principal exports :—

		£
Sisal (106,117 lbs.)	valued at	1,176
Sponge	,, ,,	7,000
Cane Syrup	,, ,,	400

54. At *Hope Town* 24 vessels were employed in the sponge industry. The sales of sponges at the Nassau Exchange realized more than £10,000. Other vessels were profitably engaged in foreign voyages and fishing.

55. *Andros.*—This is the principal sponging district of the Colony Food crops were destroyed by a hurricane ; but large demands for sponges at exceptionally high prices came at an opportune time and averted a threatened famine.

56. *Biminis.*—The building of a large hotel by an American company was commenced in August, giving regular employment at high wages to all who desired work with the result that agriculture has been practically abandoned.

Fishing and turtling were profitable. 281,560 lbs. of fish were exported to Florida.

57. *Eleuthera.*—In Governor's Harbour district pineapple cultivations were extended, but the crop was small. The canning factory packed 6,300 cases for export to the United States.

In the districts of both Governor's Harbour and Rock Sound tomato culture was largely engaged in, but owing to transportation difficulties the results were unsatisfactory.

Sisal proved to be the mainstay of a large proportion of the inhabitants.

58. *Exuma.*—Sisal cultivations were increased by about 250 acres, and 440,000 lbs. of fibre was exported.

59. *Grand Bahama.*—Large food crops were reaped, and sisal cultivations were enlarged. Sponging was profitable.

60. *Harbour Island.*—Although there was no reported increase in agriculture the trade of the district was exceptionally good owing to high prices realized for fruit and vegetables. The earnings of a large number of men employed as seamen on vessels owned in this district were very much in excess of those of former years.

61. *Inagua.*—This island was formerly a centre of German stevedore traffic. Eight ships of the Raporel Steamship Company of New York, trading with Hayti, called for stevedores, each ship taking thirty men. Wages amounted to £1,893.

The quantity of salt exported was 133,235 bushels valued at £2,185. Towards the end of the year a company was formed for developing the salt industry.

Food crops were a failure owing to drought. Sisal cultivation is increasing.

62. *Long Cay.*—Food crops were scanty but fortunately there was much sisal in the district which, although prices were small, enabled the people to purchase necessities.

63. *Long Island.*—Areas under food crops were considerably increased, but owing to severe drought very little was reaped. Sisal, however, was not affected, and proved the mainstay of the population. Stock raising was successful.

64. *Rum Cay.*—Agriculture was not neglected. There was a large crop of Indian corn. Sisal cultivation is being extended. About 70,000 lbs. of fibre shipped to Nassau.

65. *Ragged Island.*—Has a little salt trade with Hayti, Jamaica, and Cuba. 34,734 bushels of salt sold. Value £1,445. Agriculture much increased. 37,000 lbs. of sisal fibre sent to Nassau.

War Contingents.

During the year under review the Bahamas War Contingents returned from the front, and were welcomed by the Administrator of the Government and every section of the community.

Administration.

Mr. H. E. W. Grant, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government from 24th March to 8th October, during the absence from the Colony of Governor Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G.

P. W. D. ARMBRISTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

28th October, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	,,
1049	Ceylon	,,
1050	Gibraltar	1919–1920
1051	Somaliland	,,
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919
1055	Malta	,,
1056	Swaziland	1919–1920
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1058	Ashanti	1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1095.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1920–21.

(For Report for 1919–20 see No. 1059.)

LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and
28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER;
1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from EASON & SON, LTD., 40 & 41, LOWER SACKVILLE STREET, DUBLIN.

1921.

Price 9d. Net.

No. 1095.

BAHAMAS.

* REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1921.

Note.—The figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1921, with Trade and Customs for the year ended 31st December, 1920 (as desired by the Board of Trade).

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue was £254,019, as compared with £204,296 in 1919–20, an increase of £49,723.

The increase in Customs revenue, as shown in the following statement, was due to increased importations of all goods, but chiefly liquors.

The following statement gives the Customs receipts for three years :—

	£
1918–19	61,827
1919–20	165,504
1920–21	219,203

The expenditure was £220,813 (exclusive of £48,682 for debentures redeemed), as against £108,939 in 1919–20, an increase of £111,874.

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past three years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
	£	£	£
1918–19	81,049	98,236	— 17,187
1919–20	204,296	108,939	+ 95,357
1920–21	254,019	220,813	+ 33,206

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1921, was £40,568, and on 31st March, 1920 was £138,354.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622-10].

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
APR 14 1922
DOCUMENTS DIVISION

Debt.

The Public Debt bearing interest at 4, 4½, 5 and 5½ per cent. was originally £173,126, and now stands at £36,111.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £9,000.

Currency and Banking.

The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold.

United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender but are accepted if of $5 and upwards at the same rate as United States gold.

British currency notes of the £1 and 10s. denominations are also in circulation.

Local deposits in the Royal Bank of Canada amounted to £375,796 on 31st March, 1920.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The total value of imports during the year, including coin, was £1,090,217, as against £539,242 in 1919, showing an increase of £550,975.

The following statement shows the nature and the value of the Imports for the last 5 years, grouped under the Board of Trade classification.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class 1.					
Foodstuffs ..	213,667	248,024	188,953	238,283	329,913
Malt	1,645	1,155	530	1,321	6,126
Spirits (potable)	8,466	7,404	6,370	43,082	272,950
Spirits (other)	85	189	—	61	20
Wines	2,804	2,654	867	2,220	18,004
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	8,891	8,735	11,698	9,679	18,717
Live Stock ..	512	145	28	—	146
Total Class 1.	£236,070	£268,306	£208,446	£294,646	£645,876
Class 2— Raw Materials	13,400	14,303	10,389	23,259	28,074
Class 3— Manufactured Articles	216,697	200,975	148,345	221,337	407,626
Class 4— Coin	8,900	10,000	10,000		8,641
Total ..	£475,067	£493,584	£367,180	£539,242	£1,090,217

(4697) Wt. 20489/773 875. 11/21 Harrow G. 75/2.

Of the total imports *ad valorem* duties were paid on goods of the value of £375,475, or 33 per cent., specific duties on goods valued at £617,836, or 56 per cent.; and goods of the value of £114,906, or 11 per cent, were admitted free of duty.

Exports.

The value of exports was £300,407, as against £382,140 in 1919. The value of local produce was £275,416 and that of re-exports £24,991.

The figures for the five years grouped under the Board of Trade classification are as follows:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Class 1— Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics	£ 20,207	£ 25,629	£ 25,009	£ 22,844	£ 33,841
Class 2— Raw Materials	304,508	363,195	243,476	334,675	239,268
Class 3— Manufactured Articles	7,964	13,653	9,686	24,621	27,298
Class 4— Specie					
Total ..	£332,679	£402,477	£278,171	£382,140	£300,407

Sisal.—Exports of this commodity showed a decrease in quantity to the extent of 1,996,897 lb., and in value £33,802.

Sponge.—All grades showed a decrease both in quantity and value, with the exception of Reef, which showed an increase of 12,129 lb. in quantity and £7,538 in value.

The decrease in the various grades was as follows:—

Grass 127,904 lb., £9,057 value; Hardhead 84,417 lb., £9,897 value; Velvet 339,088 lb., £40,395 value; Wool 33,129 lb., £2,352 value; Yellow 33,129 lb., £1,750 value.

Lumber.—This industry has revived. Shipments to Cuba during the year under review amounted to 530,314 feet, of the value of £4,350.

Tomatoes.—There was an increase of 79,740 bushels in quantity and £14,896 in value.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade for the last five years.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	41,944	47,796	17,378	63,221	39,741
United States ..	217,643	290,450	230,049	243,320	186,216
Canada	5,514	11,554	4,614	3,219	10,009
British West Indies	945	1,117	2,199	2,633	1,684
Holland	14,058	1,827	—	29,671	13,240
France	20,425	41,134	15,620	33,164	30,143
Other Countries ..	32,150	8,599	8,311	7,002	19,374
Total ..	£332,679	£402,477	£278,171	£382,230	£300,407

Exports to the Mother Country decreased in value to the extent of £23,480, due to reduced shipments of sponge and tortoise-shell.

Exports to the United States of America amounted to £186,216, or 61·9 per cent. of the total exports, a decrease of £7,104. The chief products shipped were Fresh Fish £1,045, Pineapples (preserved) £4,492, Tomatoes (preserved) £1,303, Tomatoes (raw) 117,027 bushels, £19,991, Salt 28,458 bushels, £711, Bahamas Hemp 4,344,466 lb., £51,329, Bark and Siftings £1,379, Hides and Skins £749, Sponge 2,091,062 lb., £82,788, Woods £366.

Exports to Canada showed an increase of £6,790. The chief exports were, Pineapples (preserved) £3,432, Sponge £6,404.

Exports to France showed a decrease of £3,021. Chief export, Sponge, £30,099.

Exports to British West Indies were, 36,041 bushels of Salt, value £636, shipped to Jamaica—a decrease of 45,712 bushels as compared with the output for 1919. Other articles were valued at £1,048.

Holland. The only export was Sponge, £13,240, showing decrease of £16,431.

Other Countries. Shipments of Sponge were made to the Argentine Republic £280, Belgium £1,364, Germany £3,491, Japan £1,744, Spain £253. Tortoise Shell to the value of £650 was sent to Italy. Small shipments of Fish £157 and Salt £86 were made to Haiti. Fish £487, Salt £102, and Lumber £4,350, were shipped to Cuba.

The following table gives the total aggregate trade of the Colony for the seven years 1914–1920.

Year	Import	Export.	Total.
	£	£	£
1914	365,724	223,491	591,015
1915	363,410	243,431	601,684
1916	475,067	332,679	807,746
1917	493,584	402,447	896,061
1918	367,180	278,171	645,351
1919	539,242	382,140	921,382
1920	1,090,217	300,407	1,390,624

The nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entering and clearing during the year 1920 were as follows :—

Vessels Entered.

Nationality	No.	Tons.
British : Sailing	195	13,141
Steam	159	14,157
Danish : Steam	1	1,282
Norwegian : Steam ..	3	3,277
United States : Sailing ..	27	5,702
Steam ..	672	115,851
Dutch : Sailing	1	575
Dominican : Steam ..	1	16
Total ..	1,059	154,001

Vessels Cleared.

Nationality.	No.	Tons.
British : Sailing	206	14,509
Steam	163	13,540
Norwegian : Sailing ..	1	1,450
Steam ..	3	3,277
United States : Sailing ..	33	5,085
Steam ..	625	115,031
Dutch : Sailing	1	575
Dominican : Steam ..	1	16
Total ..	1,033	153,483

Agriculture.

Extracts from the Report of the Board of Agriculture are sub-joined :—

"The agricultural year began with the brightest prospects. Before the crop of the previous year was disposed of, foreign capitalists were on the scene taking up land and making contracts with local growers, prepared to advance the necessary funds to secure the largest crop of tomatoes ever produced in the Colony As early as July large numbers of labourers were employed preparing large tracts of land on New Providence and the Out Islands. On some of these seed was sown in early August and from this early sowing a good crop was reaped and marketed in November and early December, bringing prices never before dreamed of.

"Unfortunately the seasons were irregular. Two very heavy rainfalls with six weeks' drought between, followed by a prolonged drought of three months, resulted in a very short crop. This extraordinary weather condition was also responsible for a number of insect pests which very considerably reduced the quantity of fruit for export.

"Some of the growers, having suffered the year before from a lack of transportation facilities, had entered into agreement with the Miami Steamship Company for a weekly service with Jacksonville, and in November the s.s. 'Maple' arrived, and from that time until the end of January there was no difficulty in moving every crate ready for shipment.

"The crop was moved so regularly there was very little chance for the fruit to ripen on the vines. Consequently the canning operations were very small—not nearly enough for home consumption.

"Tomatoes exported out of the Colony during the months of November, 1920, to March, 1921 :—

	Crates	Value.
		£
Miami	35,193	14,150
Jacksonville	13,498	5,450
New York	35,768	14,400
	84,459	£34,000

"*Citrus Trees.*—In connection with the Blue-Grey fly at Spanish Wells and neighbouring settlements the Secretary has made six visits to the infested locality, and the Board has continued to supply insecticides and spraying outfits. At the Current, where the people have taken hold intelligently, the fly is almost extinct. At Spanish Wells much progress has been

made and the pest is under control. At the Bluff, people were indifferent and wanted the Board to hire them to take care of their own trees. At his last visit to this settlement the Secretary was forced to destroy 500 or more trees. This, we hope, has awakened the people to the necessity of helping themselves if they wish to save any of their trees.

"In the opinion of the Board it is useless to attempt to encourage citrus-growing in New Providence or in any infested area, but they have sent seed to the Commissioners at Cat Island for the purpose of starting nurseries from which the planters of that Island may obtain stock.

"*Bees.*—The Italian bees imported by the Board and mentioned in last year's report are doing well. There are at present five Apiaries in New Providence and two on the Out Islands, and the supply of honey during the year from all has been satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. The Board keeps a stock of supplies always on hand.

"*Stock.*—The Board has made special efforts to improve the stock of the Colony. Berkshire and Duroc pigs have been distributed at Long Island, Cat Island, Andros, and Harbour Island.

"Southdown-Shropshire Ram sheep have been sent to Exuma, Long Island, Eleuthera, and there are two now at the Botanic Station to be sent to the Out Islands.

"A beef bull of good pedigree was imported from Jamaica and is now at 'Sans Souci' serving heifers on that and neighbouring estates. It is hoped in this way to get improved stock for the Out Islands.

"A proof Jack has been sent to The Bight, Cat Island.

"Several lots of poultry for breeding purposes have been imported by the Board for private individuals.

"Recently the sheep and pigs brought to market show the good effects of the work of the Board along this line, and it is the confirmed policy of the Board to continue importing and distributing good breeding stock until the quality of locally-raised mutton and pork is up to the required standard.

"*Seeds.*—The Board has kept on hand for sale at cost and free distribution a supply of vegetable seeds of every variety. The onion seed, in spite of every precaution, again came late and as a result the crop will be very small. We have been pleased to note an increased amount of garden truck raised in New Providence and think we are safe in saying that the prospect for the coming year is bright and encouraging.

"*Out Island Exhibitions.*—Following up the success of last year, exhibitions have been held in several Out Island districts. The reports from Long Island and Andros show that the people are getting interested and much good is being accomplished.

"The Exhibition at Harbour Island was widely advertised and so favourably commented on in the public press at the time that we need only mention here that the Board intends giving every encouragement to any Commissioner who will take an interest in a movement of this kind.

"*Cotton.*—Small experiments were made in cotton-growing—one in Nassau and one at Andros. Neither was successful, failure to a large extent being due to drought."

Fisheries.

The following are extracts from the report of the Marine Products Board:—

"*Sponge.*—The forecast for this year was (*vide* Report 1919): 'The outlook for the future is bright,' and we would have had another record year like 1917, were it not for the sudden collapse of the important December market, which for the first time in the history of the Board, if not of the Exchange, was below the November month by nearly £3,000 and less than last year's by £5,000.

"The main reasons for the decline in December trading were:—(1) The slump in the money market of the United States; (2) the influx of Mediterranean sponge into the English sponge houses. The first was, of course, unavoidable, but the latter might be remedied by the Mother Country giving us protection against foreign competition.

"Another circumstance, not altogether unforeseen—however, the steady rise in Exchange rates from eleven to forty per cent., the high water mark, was a very serious handicap to purchasers for the European houses, and had its effect in lessening the value of the 'fine' goods which are so largely used by them.

"On the whole the year was a very good one, and although it closed weakly, yet the vitality of the sponge business has been too often tested for this circumstance to cause alarm.

"Wool has been the object of the Board's keenest interest and much has been done with the Board's limited means to increase the output, but the Board is now satisfied that artificial culture is the only method that promises a permanent remedy for the shortage in any variety of sponge.

"Closures do much, but the slow accumulation of three years of closure are swept away in a month's fishing, and the Board has to begin all over again. Cultures can be protected against fishing and their increase will furnish a steady supply of embryos for restocking depleted beds.

"There are also very valuable varieties such as Deadman's Cay Reef (*tubilifera*) and the 'Current' wool, besides the very little known Moss Town, Exuma, wool which is so fine that it could easily pass as Mediterranean sponge. All of these are eagerly sought by dealers, and fetch high prices, but so few are

broug. to market that in the case of the Reef and the Moss Town wool they are regarded more as curiosities than as a commercial product.

"The sales aggregated £129,002 10s. and has but one year outrivalling it, 1917, which rolled up a sale of £152,282 3s. 3d. worth of sponge, so that the Colony has no cause whatever to fear the future in this trade.

"*Closures.*—The Bight of Acklins is still under closure and from the latest reports is progressing favourably, and if the period passes without a southeast hurricane the results of the closure will be, it is expected, very gratifying.

"The Bight is under guard, one watchman being employed to prevent poaching, but the Board is considering the advisability of adding another when the planting now in process is completed.

"*Culture.*—At last the Board has launched on a definite system of culture. With the funds supplied for that purpose 30,000 discs mounted with (*equina gassypina*) wool scions from the Acklins Bight are to be planted.

"Though the vote of £800 was made during the last session of the House, the Board was unable to proceed as the shortage of cement, which extended over several months, prevented the Secretary from going on with the work. He was forced to visit the States to purchase the 100 barrels needed for the discs as well as other implements not obtainable here, and it was not until late in the year that he could begin the work at Spring Point, Acklins.

"The Ferry Farm still continues in existence, and though active planting operations have ceased, yet the sponge planted there are growing and gestating to the great advantage of the beds.

"*Turtle Shell.*—The Board is able to speak with as much confidence concerning this marine product as it did about sponge. In 1918 it said in its report, 'The Board is pleased to note that the turtle-shell industry seems likely to recover rapidly from the stagnation caused by the War'; and this prediction was verified, as, in 1919, the Board reported 'There is nothing so spectacular as the sudden rise in prices for this product,' and that year was the greatest on record for shell; but the Board added a note of warning, which we regret that dealers did not heed—'Whether the coming season will maintain these excessive figures is doubtful,' and proceeded to give reasons for this opinion, which the Board has now to confirm as this year was a most disastrous one to dealers in turtle-shell.

"The turtlers suffered little as, in spite of the Board's warning, high prices prevailed and the loss to dealers was heavy. To-day shell is a drug with hardly any but a speculative market.

"But there is a limit to depression and as soon as over-stocked manufacturers are relieved and money gets easier in the large cities, we may be confident that turtle-shell will again

take its place in the list of exports. In fact, it is little harm for business in natural products to experience these checks. It slackens the ardour of the hunter and permits the species to recover from the excessive strain that high prices entail. If turtle-shell always sold for the prices attained in 1919 no laws could protect the turtle from extinction.

" *Bêche de Mer.*—The Board has cause for congratulation that its efforts to exploit and promote this edible holothurian have at last been rewarded. Those who have been following the reports will have noticed the frequent references to expeditions and experiments in fishing and curing Bêche de Mer, and though none of the shipments made by the Board of locally-caught and cured Bêche de Mer met with much encouragement, yet the last lot forwarded attracted the attention of the Hong Kong merchants who wrote asking for a trial shipment of several tons.

" To-day, if transport serves, we can say that a fishery is established in the Colony. Mr. Cheu Lung, representing the firm of Sam Ching Chang of Hong Kong, has been engaged in fishing for Bêche de Mer for several months, and has now a lot of 4 tons ready for shipment. The Board will follow this consignment with great interest and hopes to be able to report favourably on it next year. It is not, however, the Board's experience that one shipment should decide the fate of the industry. The obstacles in the way of transport are such that the fish may be so long delayed as to arrive in bad condition, which happened more than once to the Board's small consignments, yet there have been lots that were in good order on reaching Hong Kong and the Board has no doubt that if the present shipments of properly cured fish arrive in order they will meet with a profitable sale.

" The Board pledges itself to assist the new fishery in every possible way.

" *Sharks.*—The Ocean Leather Company, with headquarters in New York City and a branch here, has started buying shark skins, fins and the liver oil of that fish.

" The Board, years ago, endeavoured to interest fishermen in the shark, not, however, for its skin (as the tanning of skins is a very recent invention), but for the valuable oil the liver yields.

" So far not many of our fishermen have paid serious attention to the shark, and the supply of skins is not large, but the Company intends to develop the fishery and is issuing equipment and instructions for catching and curing the sharks and the skins and fins and for extracting their oil.

" The present supply is depreciated by improper flensing and it is the Company's intention to give practical lessons on this important part of the work.

" The Board will watch the progress of this business and expect to have more details for the information of the Honourable Legislature in its next report.

"*Shells.*—There is no revival in this trade. The demand is slight, but there is, no doubt, large increase of the raw material awaiting orders from abroad. The falling-off in this export is of no loss to the Colony as the shells are increasing in numbers and value continually.

"*Fish.*—The Bahama Fishing Company, reported last year as purchasing cargoes of fish, have for some reason unknown ceased to operate in our waters.

"*Lobsters.*—The Board's hope for a profitable trade have not been fulfilled, as the export of the tails of this crustacean has not been continued. The main cause is, we presume, the delay in carriage, which prevents the tails arriving in marketable condition.

"*Pearls.*—There is positively no demand for this once eagerly sought gem. A fine specimen was offered but could evoke no speculative interest, it falling to a tourist. But as the tourist trade is adventitious and casual it cannot be considered as giving a standard of either value or demand to any trade."

Manufactures.

Pineapple Canning Factories.—The export of tinned pine-apples during the last five years:—

1916	38,807	cases, valued at	£10,983
1917	47,997	,, ,, ,,	£14,237
1918	22,315	,, ,, ,,	£7,454
1919	18,604	,, ,, ,,	£5,200
1920	11,050	,, ,, ,,	£7,934

Lumber Mills.—The Bahamas Cuban Company at Abaco milled 2,694,319 ft. of pine.

Salt.—The exports amounted to 72,099 bushels, valued at £1,535.

Lands and Forests.

There were 255 Grants of Crown land made during the year 1920, the area being 1327½ acres. Approximately a total of 372,204 acres of land in the Colony have been sold by the Crown to private persons and 242,795 acres remain ungranted.

It is not the policy of the Crown at present to sell lands outright except in the case of lots required for building or for such other special purposes as may be approved by the Governor of the Colony, but leases will be granted by arrangement and on reasonable terms.

On the island of New Providence there is an area of Crown Land containing about seven square miles covered with pine forest and the Crown is prepared to consider a concession for a licence to cut and manufacture these trees into lumber.

The islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama, and Andros also have extensive areas covered with pine forest, but the right to cut and manufacture these trees has already been granted for a long period to an American Company

III.--LEGISLATION.

Thirty-three Acts were added to the Statute Book.

The Tariff was amended by granting a drawback of 50 per centum on duties of Customs except in the case of wines, spirits, and tobacco.

The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement 1920 was ratified.

Provision was made for the compilation of a Land Roll of the Colony.

A new Public Establishments Act provided increased salaries to public officers.

A V.D. Act was passed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 50 principal teachers, 4 assistant teachers, 4 pupil teachers, 190 monitors, 8 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 30 employed in aided schools.

The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table :—

	1919			1920		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools ..	2,817	3,041	5,858	3,893	3,689	7,582
Aided Private Schools	419	456	875	1,058	1,030	2,088
Church of England ..	475	556	1,031	542	560	1,102
Roman Catholic ..	201	260	461	159	256	415
Baptist	34	52	86	32	23	55
Private Schools ..	170	213	383	33	47	80
Total ..	4,116	4,578	8,694	5,717	5,605	11,322

Primary education is compulsory between the ages of six and fourteen years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of twelve members appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school-houses, teachers' residences, etc., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. In addition to the annual grant, the Board received from the Treasury for the augmentation of teachers' salaries the sum of £3,979 8s. during the year under review. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements, long distances apart, on the various islands, themselves separated many miles. The average cost

for each child on the rolls, inclusive of special grants for repairs and new buildings, is £1 8s. 7d. and for each child in average attendance £2 9s. 6d.

There is still no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows :—

Name of School.	No. of Boys.	No. of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	68	64	132
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England) ..	18	—	18
St. Hilda's High School (Church of England) ..	14	40	54
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	17	33	50
Total ..	117	137	254

There is also a night school with 22 pupils, under the supervision of the Rev. C. B. Crofts.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

The Bahamas General Hospital (originally established in 1809 as a Poor-house) comprises the hospital proper, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper wards.

The number of inmates on the 1st January, 1920, was :—

Alexandra Hospital ..	34	males,	37	females.
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary	13	,,	12	,,
Lunatic Asylum	22	,,	16	,,
Leper Wards	3	,,	3	,,
Totals ..	72	males.	68	females.

During the year 1920 there were 723 admissions, making a total under treatment of 863, of whom 321 were discharged recovered, 180 relieved, 39 unchanged, and 179 died.

The Institution is managed by a Board appointed annually by the Governor.

Savings Bank.

During the year ended 30th June, 1920, 4412 deposits amounting to £16,442, and 3461 withdrawals amounting to £11,945 were made, an excess of £4,497 over withdrawals.

The number of depositors on the 30th June, 1920, was 3280, including 581 dead and unclaimed accounts. The balance due to depositors was £32,673.

The total liabilities amounted to £32,673, assets to £38,896, and an estimated surplus of £2,125 based on the investments at their approximate value.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The births in 1920 numbered 1,930, as against 2,001 in 1919. The deaths were 1,213, as against 1,002 in 1919. The birth-rate was 34·4, and the death-rate 21·6.

The estimated population on 1st January, 1920, was ..		57,838
Births, 1920	1,930	
Deaths, 1920	1,213	
Add excess of births		717
		58,555
Emigrants exceeded immigrants by		2,170
Estimated population on 1st January, 1921		56,385

The public health of the Colony was better than in 1919. There was the usual summer epidemic of typhoid in New Providence but the mortality was not high. The Out Islands were less fortunate in respect of that disease. The Colony escaped the influenza epidemic which was prevalent in the United States in the early part of the year.

Meteorological Statistics.

The following are the meteorological data for the past three years :—

Year	Temperature		Means of			Extremes of		Rainfall inches.
	7.30 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	
	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	
1918 ..	76·2	78·2	77·1	88·1	71·6	85·3	61·4	49·35
1919 ..	77·2	78·2	77·7	81·4	72·4	85·6	60·0	46·53
1920 ..	76·5	78·0	77·3	82·6	71·8	90·5	60·2	38·96

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

Postal.

The postal revenue for 1920–21 was £8,810, as against £14,263 in the previous year. The decrease was largely due to the comparatively small purchases of stamps by dealers and collectors in consequence of the withdrawal of the War issues.

The allowance received from the United Kingdom as a share of postage on parcels despatched to the Colony showed an increase of £64. It is evidence of the revival of trade with the Mother Country and an indication of what could be done if direct communication were available.

Commissions on Money Orders and Postal Orders yielded an increase of £34. The rate of commission on Money Orders

issued for payment in the United States is based on the current rate of exchange. During the year the value of the pound sterling in the American market was as low as $3·50.

The total cost of the postal service, including Foreign and Interinsular Mail services, amounted to £15,455, being an increase of £6,645 over the previous year, occasioned by the subsidy of £7,250 paid to Florida East Coast Hotel Company upon the resumption of their service during the tourist season.

Telegraphs.

The volume of traffic and the revenue exceeded that of any previous year. The revenue was £5,198 19s. 9d. and the expenditure £1,953 12s. 5d. 11,809 telegrams were received and despatched

A radio telegraph station was established at Governor's Harbour with excellent results. Similar small stations are to be erected at Bimini, Inagua, and Harbour Island during 1921.

Telephones.

There are now 464 telephones on the system.

The revenue was £2,156 9s. 11d. and the expenditure £2,134 9s. 11d. The last instalment of the Telephone Loan was paid, leaving the system free of liability.

Electric Light.

The revenue was £5,471 7s. 6d. and the expenditure £8,504 16s. 10d., including repayment of Loan, £666 13s. 4d., and interest, £440.

The deficit was due to the cost of coal and other supplies, also to the purchase of the equipment necessary to keep the old machinery in operation until a new plant, for the installation of which a contract had been entered into, could be completed.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Development of the Colony.—Extracts from the report of the Development Board are appended :—

" Early in June the question of the possibility of using sharks' skins for the manufacturing of shoes, etc., was brought before the Board by Mr. Curry, one of its members. After some correspondence the Board succeeded in interesting the Ocean Leather Company sufficiently to cause them to establish a branch of their business at Nassau.

" In order to protect the flamingoes at Andros Island, the Board, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Mangrove Cay, offered a reward of £25 to anyone who might give the necessary information leading to a conviction for a breach of the Wild Birds Protection Act. But no information has so far been received.

" In the same month Mr. Bacon, a representative of the Ford Motor Company's Motion Picture Department, visited the Colony, and the Board, amongst other things, arranged for him to visit the ' Mud ' and take motion pictures of the sponge industry. Mr. Bacon has already presented the Board with some good photographs, and has promised to try and obtain for the Board a copy of the film of the sponge industry, and it is hoped that the same will be received in due course.

" During the summer the Board, in order to encourage local talent and to assist in its advertising campaign, offered three prizes for the best written articles on New Providence as a winter resort. Twenty-seven competitors contributed articles, and the results were very satisfactory. The five best articles were sent to the States for publication and the next twelve were published locally and issued in pamphlet form from the Board's office.

" Shortly after the Board offered prizes for a folder containing general information for tourists. This also proved satisfactory, and a very attractive folder, which was printed and published locally, was the result. Copies of this folder were sent to the Board's representatives in England and America and supplied to most of the visitors during the season.

" The Board also, as usual, had published a list of Hotels, and boarding and furnished houses, copies of which were sent to its agents and supplied to anyone on application.

" For the purpose of obtaining information about the Colony the Board established the following agencies :—

> The Raymond and Whitcombe Company, The Florida East Coast Hotel Company, and The Nassau Hotel and Steamship Company in New York, ' The Ask Mr. Foster Company ! ' and The Office of The Bimini Bay Rod and Gun Club in Miami, and the West Indian Committee in London.

" To these agencies large quantities of literature were sent from time to time for free distribution, and during the winter season the local weather report was sent daily to the Board's agents in America and also to the *New York Herald*.

" The Board being of opinion that a daily newspaper during the winter months should be given a trial, arranged with *The Nassau Guardian* for the publication of that paper daily from the 1st of January to the 31st of March.

" In order to assist the development of the Out Islands as far as possible, the Board gave every encouragement to the holding of the exhibition and regatta at Harbour Island, and provided the motor vessel ' Mystery J ' for the purpose of carrying passengers to the District. Both the exhibition and regatta proved a great success, and Mr. McKinney, the Commissioner, is to be commended for the great interest he took in the matter.

"Every effort has been made by the Board during the year to induce cigar manufacturers from Key West to establish a branch at Nassau, but up to the present nothing definite has been decided.

"The Board also made every possible effort to encourage the establishment of a motion picture theatre at Nassau. Owing, however, to its inability to obtain sufficient electrical current for the purpose, all its efforts have proved fruitless. However, this is a matter which the Board is very anxious to see carried out, and no effort will be spared to effect this object as soon as the new power plant has been installed.

"At the request of the Civic Circle the Board agreed to assist the Circle to the extent of £50 in providing funds for the improvement of Rawson Square and other public grounds.

"In order to give visitors a good impression on landing, the Board, at considerable expense, caused to be erected a new shed on the Crown Wharf, and has recently completed the building of an attractive rest-house at the landing at South-West Bay. The Board has also erected a useful pier at Fort Montague, which it is hoped will be a great convenience as a landing for vessels and boats desiring to land passengers in that vicinity. The Board also had the Western Esplanade concreted throughout its whole length and also concreted the lane to the East of Rawson Square. Rest House at East End, Clifton and along the road on the South side of the Island have also been erected, and, with the kind permission of Mrs. Mercedes Henry, a satisfactory footpath has been made from the main road to Mermaid's Pool. This latter fills a long-felt want.

"The Board also had a number of sign-boards, descriptive of various places of interest, and other boards, indicating the names of various estates and streets, erected throughout the Island."

The Out Islands.

The following is a brief résumé of the Reports of the Out Island Commissioners :—

Abaco.—In the Hope Town District a small lumber mill was installed by Mr. E. Sands between Spencer's Point and Marsh Harbour during the latter part of the year.

There were six sugar-cane mills in operation, producing about 4,250 gallons of syrup.

Progress was made with the building of a three-masted schooner at Hope Town. Boat-building was also engaged in at Marsh Harbour.

In the Green Turtle Cay District the two portable saw-mills in operation gave constant employment to labourers, both skilled and unskilled. The output of lumber for the year was about 5,000,000 feet. The sum of £24,000 was distributed in wages.

The sugar-cane mills in this District produced 2,200 gallons of syrup valued at £660.

Andros.—Marked success attended the sponge industry in the Fresh Creek District especially during the month of November. The catches for the year realised £41,140.

Biminis.—The Hotel referred to in last year's Report was opened towards the end of the year. Its erection afforded lucrative employment to the people of the District, with the result that agricultural pursuits were entirely neglected.

Eleuthera.—Efforts were made at Governor's Harbour to keep alive the waning pineapple industry, but the results were not encouraging. The output of the canning factory amounted to 3,500 cases, valued at £1,178.

Tomato cultivation continued to receive great attention.

The prosecution of the sisal industry proved to be of great benefit to the inhabitants of Savannah Sound, Palmetto Point, and James's Cistern.

At Rock Sound the acreage in tomato cultivation was doubled, but at Tarpum Bay the industry was not carried on to such an extent as formerly.

Exuma.—The area of land under sisal cultivation was about 2,400 acres. The quantity of fibre shipped to Nassau was 330 tons approximately.

The Island is well adapted for stock-raising and there are four farms in the District.

Grand Bahama.—Notwithstanding the prolonged drought, fair food crops were reaped. The area under cultivation of sisal was increased.

Large catches of turtle were made for which good prices were obtained.

Sponging was prosecuted with vigour, but the prices realised were disappointing.

Harbour Island.—The trade of the District continued to flourish. The local schooners again made profitable voyages the gross earnings amounting to £15,586.

The cultivation of the soil was pursued with energy, and good prices were paid both locally and at Nassau for every article of produce.

Inagua.—Only three ships of the Raporel Steamship Company touched at the Island during the year for the purpose of obtaining stevedores. The pay rolls amounted to £438.

The quantity of salt exported was 55,731 bushels valued at £1,039.

Long Cay.—Large areas were added to the cultivation of sisal, which is the staple product of the District.

Food crops consisting of Indian and guinea corn, peas, beans, sweet potatoes, etc., flourished.

Long Island.—Sisal continued to be the mainstay of the population.

The area under cultivation of food crops was doubled.

Hundreds of bunches of bananas and plantains were shipped to Nassau and brought good prices.

Ragged Island.—There was no direct trade with Hayti during the year. A cargo of 6,500 bushels of coarse salt was sent to Jamaica, and 7,522 bushels were shipped to Miami.

A good market for agricultural products was found in the neighbouring Islands.

The output of sisal was 4,400 lb. as against 37,000 lb. during the previous year.

Rum Cay.—Agriculture was more prosperous than in the previous year. The corn crop was increased 700 per cent.

Sisal and cattle were exported.

San Salvador (Arthurs Town).—The quantity of sisal exported—301,000 lb.—was less by 64,000 lb. than the shipments for 1919.

The cultivation of the coconut commanded attention.

San Salvador (*The Bight*).—Owing to the low prices ruling for sisal, more attention was given to the production of food crops.

Watlings.—The production of sisal continued to be the principal industry in the District, but the acreage in food crops was extended.

Live-stock valued at £225 was exported to Nassau.

Administration.

Mr. F. C. Wells Durrant, K. C., Attorney-General, administered the Government from the 3rd to the 22nd February, 1920, during the illness of Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G., and again from the 23rd February to the 8th April, consequent on the departure from the Colony of Sir William Allardyce, on his appointment to be Governor of Tasmania. Mr. H. E. W. Grant, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government from the 9th April to the 7th December.

Major (now Sir Harry) Cordeaux, K.C.M.G., C.B., on his appointment to be Governor of the Bahamas, assumed the administration of the Government on the 8th December.

H. E. W. GRANT,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas.
24th September, 1921.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1060	British Solomon Islands	1919–1920
1061	Seychelles	,,
1062	Mauritius	,,
1063	St. Vincent	April–December 1919
1064	Nigeria	,,
1065	Sierra Leone	,,
1066	Gold Coast	,,
1067	Jamaica	1919–1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1070	British Honduras	,,
1071	Hong Kong	,,
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	1919
1076	Falkland Islands	,,
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	,,
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	,,
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

Printed by H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE PRESS, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1145.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1921--22.

(For Report for 1920-21 see No. 1095.)

LONDON:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37 Peter Street, Manchester; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or 23 Forth Street, Edinburgh.

1922.

Price 9*d. Net.*

No. 1145.

BAHAMAS.

* REPORT BY THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1922.

Note.—The figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1922, with Trade and Customs for the year ended 31st December, 1921 (as desired by the Board of Trade).

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue was £470,987, as compared with £254,019 in 1920–21, an increase of £216,968.

The increase in Customs revenue, as shown in the following statement, was due to increased importations of all goods, but chiefly liquors.

The following statement gives the Customs receipts for three years :—

	£
1919–20	165,504
1920–21	219,203
1921–22	426,809

The expenditure was £267,402, as against £220,813 in 1920–21, an increase of £46,589.

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past three years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
	£	£	£
1919–20	204,296	108,939	+ 95,357
1920–21	254,019	220,813	+ 33,206
1921–22	470,987	267,402	+203,585

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1922, was £302,115, and on 31st March, 1921 was £40,568.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622-10].

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
APR 9 1923
DOCUMENTS

DEBT.

The Public Debt bearing interest at 4, 4½, 5 and 5½ per cent. was originally £173,126, and now stands at £27,325.

The annual charge on account of interest and sinking fund is about £9,000.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold.

United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender but are accepted if of $5 and upwards at the same rate as United States gold.

British currency notes of the £1 and 10s. denominations are also in circulation.

Local deposits in the Royal Bank of Canada amounted to £742,709 on 31st March, 1922.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports during the year, including coin, was £1,095,999, as against £1,090,217 in 1920, showing an increase over last year of £5,782.

The following statement shows the nature and the value of the Imports for the last five years, grouped under the Board of Trade classifications.

	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class 1.					
Foodstuffs ..	248,024	188,953	238,283	329,913	197,072
Malt	1,155	530	1,321	6,126	8,299
Spirits	7,593	6,370	43,143	272,970	478,896
Wines	2,654	867	2,220	18,004	20,459
Tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes ..	8,735	11,698	9,679	18,717	15,624
Live Stock ..	145	28	—	146	188
Total Class 1.	£268,306	£208,446	£294,646	£645,876	£720,538
Class 2—					
Raw Materials	14,303	10,389	23,259	28,074	20,127
Class 3—					
Manufactured Articles	200,975	148,345	221,337	407,626	329,834
Specie	10,000	—	—	8,641	25,500
Total ..	£493,584	£367,180	£539,242	£1,090,217	£1,095,999

(8327) Wt. 23233 1220 625 1 23 Harrow G. 75/2.

The share of the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and Foreign Countries in the Import trade for each of the five years was :—

Countries.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
United Kingdom ..	42,857	19,575	34,179	228,649	408,745
Canada	2,848	6,206	20,328	49,570	32,141
Jamaica	—	—	—	39,832	26,492
Other British Possessions ..	28,020	38,046	45,764	4,100	1,038
Total, British Empire	73,725	63,827	100,271	322,151	468,416
America	415,751	299,833	435,922	744,096	610,128
Cuba	—	—	—	16,652	2,076
France	—	—	—	3,340	11,258
Holland	930	271	206	3,304	2,062
Other Countries ..	3,178	3,249	2,843	674	2,059
Total, All Countries	493,584	367,180	539,242	1,090,217	1,095,999

Of the total imports *ad valorem* duties were paid on goods to the value of £254,009, or 24 per cent., specific duties on goods valued at £696,989, or 63 per cent. ; and goods to the value of £145,001, or 13 per cent. were admitted free of duties.

EXPORTS.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade for the last five years :—

Countries.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
United Kingdom ..	47,796	17,378	63,221	39,741	34,809
Bermuda	—	—	100	6,146	26,418
Canada	11,554	4,614	3,219	10,009	50,937
Jamaica	—	2,199	2,421	1,684	2,030
Other British Possessions ..	1,117	—	112	—	108
Total, British Empire	60,467	24,191	69,073	57,580	114,302
Belgium	—	—	878	1,364	3,361
Cuba	4,619	5,649	437	4,946	42,468
France	41,134	15,620	33,164	30,143	19,687
Germany	—	—	—	3,491	3,411
Holland	1,827	—	29,671	13,240	23,897
Mexico	—	72	—	—	34,322
Miquelon	—	—	—	—	25,000
America	290,450	230,049	243,320	186,216	109,709
Other Countries ..	1,655	2,590	5,687	3,427	2,013
Total	400,152	278,171	382,230	300,407	378,170

(1) Exports to the Mother Country decreased in value to the extent of £4,932, due to reduced shipments of sponges and tortoise-shell.

(2) Bermuda :—Unclassified goods were exported to the value of £26,418.

(3) Exports to Canada showed an increase of £40,928, the chief exports were Pineapples, £276 ; Sponges, £356 ; and Unclassified goods, £50,305.

(4) Jamaica :—Exports to this Colony showed an increase of £346 ; chief exports, Salt, £796 ; Woods, £1,006.

(5) Other British Possessions :—Unclassified goods were exported as follows :—British Honduras, £90 ; Turks Island, £18.

I. Exports to Belgium showed an increase of £1,997 ; chief export, Sponge, £3,357.

II. Exports to Cuba showed an increase of £37,522 ; chief export, Lumber, £38,183.

III. Exports to France showed a decrease of £10,456 ; chief export, Sponge, £19,647.

IV. Germany :—Exports to this country showed a decrease of £80 ; chief export, Sponge, £3,411.

V. Exports to Holland showed an increase of £10,657 ; only export, Sponge, £23,897.

VI. Mexico :—Unclassified goods to the value of £34,322 were exported to this country.

VII. Miquelon :—Unclassified goods to the value of £25,000 were exported to Miquelon.

VIII. Exports to the United States of America amounted to £109,709, or 29 per cent. of the total exports, a decrease of £75,607. The chief products shipped were—Beche de Mer, £1,897 ; Pineapples, £2,530 ; Tomatoes, £18,282 ; Bark, £3,389 ; Sponge, £39,598 ; Bahamas Hemp, £2,242.

IX. Other countries :—Shipments of Sponge were made to Argentine Republic, £64 ; Denmark, £42 ; Italy, £611 ; Japan, £799 ; Spain, £473.

The following table gives the total aggregate trade of the Colony for the seven years 1915–1921 :

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1915	363,410	243,431	601,684
1916	475,067	332,679	807,746
1917	493,584	442,447	896,061
1918	367,180	278,171	645,351
1919	539,242	382,140	921,382
1920	1,090,217	300,407	1,390,624
1921	1,095,999	378,170	1,474,169

The nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entering and clearing during the year 1920 were as follows :—

Vessels Entered.

Nationality	No.	Tons.
British : Sails	206	21,447
Steam	240	90,351
Argentinian : Sails ..	1	270
Cuban : Sails	1	303
Danish : Steam	1	1,282
Honduranian : Steam ..	27	2,186
Norwegian : Steam ..	10	10,932
Spanish : Steam	1	72
American : Sails	88	6,935
Steam ..	786	192,091
Total ..	1,361	325,869

Vessels Cleared.

Nationality.	No.	Tons.
British : Sails	183	18,801
Steam	265	190,743
American : Sails	120	7,455
Steam ..	1,835	192,501
Danish : Steam	1	1,282
Honduranian : Steam ..	25	1,997
Norwegian : Steam ..	10	10,932
Spanish : Steam	1	72
Total ..	1,340	323,783

AGRICULTURE.

Extracts from the Report of the Board of Agriculture are sub-joined :—

" The infrequent and scanty rainfall during the year under review made farming operations more than usually difficult and uncertain, especially is this true of the tomato crop and other winter vegetables. September is the time for sowing seed, and, instead of the usual rains, we had a month's drought, and consequently the seed failed to germinate and operations were delayed a month.

" Here and there we had a local shower, and a few of the planters were fortunate in securing seedlings. These fortunate ones were able to market tomatoes in early November and

December and secure fancy prices, and were able to show a substantial balance on the right side. The large majority, however, were delayed in getting their fields planted out until October and November, and the crop coming along in February and March, met keen competition in the foreign market and sales realized were not so satisfactory.

" Most of the growers on the Out Islands were operating with advances made by American commission men. The system prevailing in the Out Island tomato district of accepting advances from commission men and pledging crops is certainly not an ideal arrangement. The best results cannot be expected under such conditions.

" Some excellent fruit, nicely graded and packed, was shipped from Nassau, and the returns from these were highly satisfactory ; one shipment of 300 crates in December netted the shipper 19s. per crate.

" Transportation from Nassau to United States was all that could be desired, one or two shipments from the Eleuthera district missed the steamer they were intended for, but the delay was not as serious as in other years, the whole crop being moved successfully and in good condition.

" About 1,000 cases were canned by the J. S. Johnson Company valued at about £400. The fruit was obtained from their own plantation and would otherwise have been allowed to rot in the fields, not being up to shipping standard. Other growers in New Providence were indifferent to the opportunity to realize on this ' canning stuff ' and allowed it to go to waste.

" Tomatoes exported during the season to 31st March, 1922, 69,869 crates, valued at about £35,000. This is a slight decrease in number of crates, but the net yield to the grower is considerably more than that of last year.

" The crop of winter vegetables, with the exception of cabbages, was about the average, and prices obtained in the local market were exceptionally high. There was a heavy local demand, doubtless created and sustained by the successful tourist season, and although the crop was fairly large, the supply was below demand.

" To encourage the cultivation of vegetables in Nassau the Board offered a number of prizes for vegetable plots, and in January a Committee of the Board examined the plots entered and awarded the prizes.

" The nearby settlements on the Out Islands found ready sale for the produce they brought to market. One man at Spanish Wells sold £60 worth of paw-paw alone.

" Bananas, oranges, grapefruit, melons, and potatoes sold in local markets at what many considered exorbitant prices. This, surely, should encourage the growers and lead to increased production.

"The Board was fortunate in securing onion seed from Teneriffe at the right time this year. It was quickly distributed, and it is reported that a good crop will be marketed. At the time of writing, shipments are coming in from the Out Islands and are selling at 5d. per lb. This high price cannot continue when the full crop is on the market, but when 2d. a lb. is considered a remunerative price for onions, some idea can be obtained of the value of this crop to those engaged in its cultivation."

Citrus.—"For some time past the Board has been giving its attention to the citrus groves in the Eleuthera district infected with the 'Black Fly,' the Secretary has made several visits to the district, taking with him insecticides and spray pumps and given instructions in the use of the same.

"Just a few weeks ago the Chairman of the Board made a visit of inspection, and it was found that those who had profited by the previous visits of the Secretary and had continued the use of the remedy supplied by the Board were now in possession of very healthy trees very nearly free from any pest, on the other hand the careless and indifferent owners had allowed their trees gradually to die. From the report submitted by the Chairman the Board is satisfied that the remedy supplied by the Board is sufficiently effective to keep the 'Black Fly' under control, and has decided to enforce the provisions of the Plants Protection Act, 1916. Notice has been served on the delinquents that after 1st June, 1922, the Board will destroy all neglected trees in the district as a protection to those who have their trees in hand and are co-operating with the Board in an effort to save the only remaining citrus trees in the Colony.

"The Board has recently received a few nests of ants (*Dugal Campbell*) from Jamaica and has placed them in a few remaining trees in New Providence. The fungi received from the same source has been distributed at the Current.

"The Board is pleased to report that there are signs that the 'Black Fly' is weakening in New Providence, and that here and there are to be found young trees entirely free from it.

"We are of opinion that very soon it will be safe again to plant citrus trees, and have made plans to have a supply of seedlings on hand for planting next year."

Sisal.—"Until a month ago there has been no foreign demand for sisal, and no shipments were made until March. Since then shipments have been going forward and the local price at the time of writing is 15s. per 100 lbs. It went as low as 6s. during the year with only one buyer in the market."

Bees.—"From the four hives of Italian bees imported by the Board two years ago we now have ten apiaries in the Colony, distributed as follows:—

New Providence, 5 ; Exuma, 2 ; Long Island, 1 ; Eleuthera, 1; Spanish Wells, 1.

" Many of the Out Islanders are getting interested, and it is hoped that very soon we shall have the honey bee well established all over the Colony. As yet the supply of honey does not exceed the local demand, but there is a very good prospect of building up a very profitable industry and adding to our list of exports."

Stock.—" The Board has continued its efforts to improve the quality of the stock of the Colony, and is pleased to report that already there is abundant evidence that these efforts are yielding results.

" The progeny of the Berkshire and Jersey Duroc pigs imported by the Board are now fairly distributed over the Colony. From the boar placed at the Nassau Prison over 300 pigs have been distributed, and even the casual observer cannot visit the market without noticing the marked improvement in the pigs now offered for sale.

" The Southdown-Shropshire rams imported have done equally well, and now it is not uncommon for a sheep from this stock to sell in local market for from £4 to £5."

Poultry.—" During the year the Board has imported Rhode Island Reds and distributed them in New Providence, Eleuthera, Harbour Island, Spanish Wells, Exuma, Long Island, Cat Island, and Acklins, and from the reports recently received from the Commissioners and other individuals to whom the ' Reds ' were sent, we are encouraged to believe that the poultry offered for sale will shortly show the efforts of this introduction of new blood, for the conditions on which these fowls were placed was that the eggs should be used exclusively for hatching purposes.

" Two toms and six hen turkeys were imported and placed at Exuma, the island which, for some reason, appears to be specially adapted to the breeding of turkeys."

Seeds.—" The Board has kept on hand for sale at cost and free distribution a full supply of vegetable seed of every variety, and the demand this year has been above the average."

Fisheries.

The following are extracts from the Report of the Marine Products Board :—

" The instability of Continental Exchange and the shortage of money were disabilities that the industry was called upon to face this year. Offerings on the Exchange grew smaller and smaller, insomuch that in December, which is always the congested season, there were days when the Exchange was idle owing to there being no sponge to sell.

" This shortage was reflected on the returns, which were £10,156 1s. 5d., the lowest figures ever recorded for that month.

"The year's aggregate, £83,092 6s. 9d., was also significant of the prevailing unsatisfactory conditions, as it is lower than any year, with one exception (1914), for the past decade.

"While deprecating these unhappy incidents, yet the Board maintains that it was not altogether unforeseen. The forecast for this year's business, as may be read in the report for 1920, is '*The Board is unable to hold out hopes of a profitable Spring market.*' That this decline was to grow worse and continue throughout the year, no human experience or skill could have foreseen.

"Again we are unable to predict a revival in the coming Spring. Prices will be steadier, but the demand will be particular and the general market must suffer. When exchange recovers and money is easier, even the loss of vessels may be remedied in part by longer voyages and better qualities, but as long as the money markets are depressed the high tides of the last decade will never be equalled.

"Another feature was a shortage of velvet, an unusual occurrence in the fishery and one which there is no reasonable solution, save the shortage in vessels already noted, though the Board is not in a position to make a definite statement as to the cause; but if it continues, it will form the subject of research in the coming year.

"While not looking forward to great things, the Board assures the Government that there is no room for pessimism whatever. Sponge is, and will continue to be, our most vital product when exogenous sources of revenue will have disappeared as quickly and as phenomenally as they came.

"In support of this assertion we take the liberty of quoting from the Report of the Washington Commissions of Fisheries. 'The fishery has not escaped the fluctuations in value and general depression felt in other industries. The radical changes in price throughout the year with considerable quantities of sponge remaining unsold . . . have not tended to simplify the financing operations, but . . . the future may be viewed without concern.'

"*Closures.*—The only area under closure at present is the Acklins Bight, which is due to be opened in August. Other closures are, however, necessary, and if the Board is renewed, the sponge fields will receive attention.

"*Culture.*—Since the Board began experimenting in sponge culture, there has been a general activity in that work in all marine departments where sponge is controlled. The Washington Bureau of Fisheries, besides experimenting in Floridian waters, is endeavouring to cultivate sponge on the Pacific coast, and to that end are sending sponge sets across the continent, though they have not yet made any progress, as while the sponge cutting keeps alive it does not develop. In Turkish waters there is also an attempt to grow the very valuable Mandrouka sponge.

" In an interesting monograph on sponge compiled by E. J. Cresswell, Esq., of the firm of Cresswell and Company, international sponge dealers, there are many references to the new industry, some of which are apposite here.

> ' State and federal laws should be enacted for encouraging sponge culture in both territorial and extra territorial waters. . . . In case of further depletion of the natural beds, or with the growth of demand and the failure to discover new or more productive grounds, sponge culture offers the only possible means of prevention of a practical sponge famine.' Chap. XV., p. 94.

" Wool sponges from the Ferry Farm, which have been allowed to grow unmolested, have been gathered and sold in the Exchange ; they were much admired for their uniformity and texture, and sold for 2s. each. It is certainly advisable to utilise this field more largely than hitherto and the Board intends, should funds be provided, planting 10,000 sets on this farm and vicinity, using as many of the Moss Town wool as possible. The waters of Watlings will also be sowed with as many more, if practicable, and the fine reef of Deadman's Cay will be increased by artificial culture. The carrying on of these enterprises will require an additional vote of £800 for the use of the Board.

" A report has been submitted on the planting of 30,000 discs in the Bight of Acklins, which was very successfully accomplished in spite of the disadvantage under which the contractor worked, as the perusal of the report will show. Specimens of plants have been received, and were found in excellent health and seemed to be progressing favourably.

" During the recent visit to the Bêche-de-Mer curing plants, the Secretary had an opportunity of visiting Hawksbill Cay, where Mr. Crawshay, the biologist from England, is engaged in experimental work in sponge growing. Mr. Crawshay courteously showed the cuttings that he had planted, and also the buildings which are intended for temperamental experiments. It will be some time before the experiments will be of practical value, but there can be no doubt that they will prove intensely interesting to the sponge cultivator when they shall have been thoroughly completed."

Turtle Shell.

" That there has been a recovery from last year's depression cannot be denied, as shell sold at extremely high prices, but that the industry is normal is very doubtful. The London market has not justified the rise in price here and dealers have suffered. While the market reports promise good demand and competition, yet there seems to be a decided falling off in prices, which cannot very well be accounted for. Turtle shell, however, will continue

to be on demand, and the coming year may prove highly satisfactory. The quantity brought to market was not affected by the loss of vessels as the shipments were quite as heavy as in the preceding year."

Sharks' Skins.

"The Ocean Leather Company has been purchasing steadily and there is a large number ready for shipment. A sample of the tanned skin has been submitted by Dr. Dolly, the chemist, who is connected with the company, and it proved to be a very valuable and useful product. The leather is equal in consistency and resiliency to the best cowskin leather and possesses some qualities of which other leathers are destitute.

"'All types of sharks furnish valuable leather, and the grain of this tough product makes it prized for upholstering, bag and trunk covering, brief or barristers' cases, bill fold, novelties, and so forth. Scientists for many years have studied how to remove the horny substance called shagreen from sharks' hides. To-day his secret processes remove the objectionable matters from aquatic hides economically and with despatch. While practically every kind of sea leather is manufactured, shark leather is specialised on in an extract from 'Leather from the Deep,' by L. W. Pedruse.

"The Board has had no opportunity of inspecting the work of the company, as there is no central station for the catching of sharks and for curing their skins; when one is established, the Board will at once take steps to furnish the Government with all necessary information concerning the interesting export."

Bêche-de-Mer.

"As a set-off to the unfavourable aspect of the sponge trade, the Board is proud to point to the increasing export in this edible holothurian. As is very well known, many attempts have been made to open our Bêche-de-Mer fisheries to the world, but hitherto all efforts have been spasmodic and barren. The Board, however, was not satisfied that the fishery could not be exploited, and the result of their labours, as detailed in the report for the preceding year, has been very gratifying. Twice as much Bêche-de-Mer was shipped this year as was shipped in 1920, and the coming year promises an even greater output. Two curing stations are at work on Abaco, and a third is soon to be started.

"The Board is much in favour of local enterprise entering this field. Merchants desirous of dealing in this product should correspond with Messrs. Loxley and Company, of Hongkong, China. Still more important, however, than the Chinese market, are the many opportunities for sale of Bêche-de-Mer in the United States, where thousands of Chinese restaurants and sea food eating houses would be glad to get their supplies from the Bahamas,

thus saving the heavy overland charges from San Francisco, from which sources these saloons are supplied. That a profitable business is awaiting any enterprising merchant the Board is quite assured."

Other Marine Products.

"The condition of the major industries already noted leave little to be said about the minor. They have all declined and will not recover until the others are improved. Pearls may be said to have come to an end as a commodity as there is no public interest in them whatever. Conch shells are but in slight demand. The trade in sea products is one that, while it is subject to sudden and severe reverses, yet will eventually recover and resume its normal condition. Unlike the products of the land, they are automatic and require no cultivation but a reasonable amount of protection and selection, and this the Board, if provided with the necessary power, will continue to do in the future as it has endeavoured to do in the past."

Manufactures.

Pineapple Canning Factories.—The export of tinned pineapples during the last five years :—

1917	38,807	cases, valued at	£14,327
1918	22,315	,, ,, ,,	£7,454
1919	18,604	,, ,, ,,	£7,591
1920	11,050	,, ,, ,,	£7,924
1921	3,476	,, ,, ,,	£1,367

Lumber.—The Bahamas Cuban Company at Abacho exported 5,340,000 ft. of pine.

Salt.—The exports amounted to 126,000 bushels, valued at £3,003.

Lands and Forests.

There were 47 Grants of Crown land made during the year 1921, the area being 180 acres. Approximately a total of 372,384 acres of land in the Colony have been sold by the Crown to private persons and 242,615 acres remain ungranted.

It is not the policy of the Crown at present to sell lands outright, except in the case of lots required for building or for such other special purposes as may be approved by the Governor of the Colony, but leases will be granted by arrangement and on reasonable terms.

On the island of New Providence there is an area of Crown land containing about seven square miles covered with pine forest, and the Crown is prepared to consider a concession for a licence to cut and manufacture these trees into lumber.

The islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama, and Andros also have extensive areas covered with pine forest, but the right to cut and manufacture these trees has already been granted for a long period to an American Company.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Acts were added to the Statute Book.

Provision was made for dredging and deepening of the bar at the entrance of the harbour of Nassau, and for providing a channel and basin within the harbour.

An Act to facilitate the enforcement in the Colony of Maintenance Orders made in the United Kingdom and *vice versa* was passed.

Imperial preference in matters of duties of Customs was provided for.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 50 principal teachers, 4 assistant teachers, 6 pupil teachers, 183 monitors, 7 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 33 employed in aided schools.

The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table :—

	1920			1921		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools ..	3,893	3,689	7,582	3,964	3,661	7,625
Aided Private Schools	1,058	1,030	2,088	1,295	1,281	2,576
Church of England ..	542	560	1,102	483	570	1,053
Roman Catholic ..	159	256	415	219	309	528
Baptist	32	23	55	57	30	87
Private Schools ..	33	47	80	8	21	29
Total ..	5,717	5,605	11,322	6,026	5,872	11,898

Primary education is compulsory between the ages of six and fourteen years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of twelve members appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school-houses, teachers' residences, etc., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. In addition to the annual grant, the Board received from the Treasury, for the augmentation of teachers' salaries and the defraying of other expenses, the sum of £6,500 during the year under review. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements, long distances apart, on the various islands, themselves separated many miles. The average cost for each child on the rolls, inclusive of special grants for repairs and new buildings, is £1 7s. 7d., and for each child in average attendance £2 6s. 5d.

There is still no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows :—

Name of School.	No. of Boys.	No. of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	71	69	140
Nassau Grammar School (Church of England) ..	16	—	16
St. Hilda's High School (Church of England) ..	12	39	51
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	14	30	44
Total ..	113	138	251

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

The Bahamas General Hospital (originally established in 1809 as a poor-house) comprises the hospital proper, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper wards.

The number of inmates on the 1st January, 1921, was :—

Alexandra Hospital ..	36	males,	25	females.
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary	18	,,	18	,,
Lunatic Asylum	22	,,	20	,,
Leper Wards	2	,,	3	,,
Totals ..	78	males.	66	females.

During the year 1921 there were 749 admissions, making a total under treatment of 993, of whom 376 were discharged recovered, 172 relieved, 15 unchanged, and 169 died.

The institution is managed by a Board appointed annually by the Governor.

Savings Bank.

During the year ended 30th June, 1921, 5,112 deposits amounting to £20,730, and 3,659 withdrawals amounting to £14,359 were made, an excess of £6,371 over withdrawals.

The number of depositors on the 30th June, 1921, was 3,278, including 579 dead and unclaimed accounts.

The total liabilities amounted to £39,999, assets to £46,675, and an estimated surplus of £2,242 based on the investments at their approximate value.

The restriction limiting an account to £40 a year until it reached £200 has been removed by the repeal of section 53 of the Post Office Act, 1914.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The births in 1921 numbered 2,142, as against 1,930 in 1920. The deaths were 1,151, as against 1,213 in 1920. The birth-rate was 38·2, and the death-rate 20·5.

The estimated population on 1st January, 1921, was ..		55,352
Births, 1921	2,142	
Deaths, 1921	1,151	
Add excess of births		991
		56,343
Emigrants exceeded immigrants by		192
Estimated population on 1st January, 1922		56,151

The Public Health of the Colony was not so good as in 1920. Typhoid was more prevalent than usual and there was a very persistent and prolonged epidemic of Dengue fever, which appears to have been fairly common all over Florida.

Meteorological Statistics.

The following are the meteorological data for the past three years :—

Year	Temperature		Means of			Extremes of		
	7.30 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Rainfall inches.
	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	
1919 ..	77·2	78·2	77·7	81·4	72·4	85·6	60·0	46·53
1920 ..	76·5	78·0	77·3	82·6	71·8	90·5	60·2	38·96
1921 ..	77·5	78·7	78·1	83·0	73·2	91·0	62·3	46·83

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

Postal.

The postal revenue for 1920-22 was £6,408, as against £8,810 in the previous year.

A large decrease is shown in the sales of stamps, for the reason that very few orders were received from dealers and collectors, who until recently were large purchasers. The revenue now earned is obtained from permanent sources, and may therefore be regarded as normal.

The total cost of the postal administration, including foreign and interinsular mail services, amounted to £23,612, being an increase of £8,157 over the previous year.

Mail subsidies have taken a flight, and are now costing the Colony about £35,000 annually.

Telegraphs.

In volume of traffic and revenue derived therefrom the department established a new high record.

The revenue was £5,837 8s. 5d., with expenditure of £2,511 5s. 2d.

17,279 telegrams were received and despatched.

Radio telegraph stations were established on the islands of Bimini and Inagua and on Harbour Island, all of which gave very satisfactory results and proved of great benefit to the residents of those islands.

Telephones.

There are now 480 telephones on the system. The entire telephone equipment is being renewed and a considerable increase in the number of subscribers is expected to follow completion of the work.

The revenue was £8,855 9s. 1d. (which included £6,000 Loan) and expenditure, £8,825 19s. 2d

Electric Light.

The revenue was £5,418 2s., and expenditure, £7,118 10s. 4d.

A new and more powerful electric plant, with ice-making machinery, is being installed. On completion the service is to be extended to distances considerably greater than is now supplied and with consequent large increase in the number of users of electricity.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Development of the Colony.

I append extracts from the report of the Development Board :—

" In April the Board unanimously endorsed and confirmed the resolution of the Board passed on 20th August, 1921, submitting, for the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the proposal of Major H. H. Kitchener for the establishment of an air service between Nassau and Miami, and also recommended, for the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, some increase in the subsidy subsequently granted for the encouragement of a British Air Service between this port and Miami. While communication by air between Nassau and Florida is now a matter of frequent occurrence, it is to be regretted that the scheme for which a subsidy was granted by the Legislature for a British company has not so far materialized.

" In May the Board voted the sum of £300 from the funds at their disposal to assist the Bahamas Home Industries Association in establishing a lace-making industry in the Colony.

" In addition to the original folder issued by the Board, which had been greatly improved in many respects, especially by the inclusion of a map of the Island of New Providence, and one of the City of Nassau, and of which about 2,000 copies were put into circulation during the year, the Board purchased 1,000 copies of another attractive booklet entitled, ' The Isles of June,' published by the Russel M. Seeds Company, of Indianapolis. Both folders were successful and were in great demand by tourists and others.

" One hundred large blue prints of the map of the city were also procured, many of which were distributed locally. A further supply of the pamphlet containing information about hotels, private houses for rent, and boarding and lodging houses in the city has been ordered. This pamphlet has been found to be very useful and is in great demand.

" As there had been many inquiries for the pamphlet issued by the Board entitled, ' Information as to Soil, Climate, etc., for Intending Settlers,' which was out of print, the Board also decided to have that pamphlet revised and reprinted. The question of publishing a new edition of ' Sketches of Summerland,' one of the best books on the Colony which has yet appeared, was also taken up with the publishers, the *Nassau Guardian*.

" In view of the fact that up to June, 1921, no definite progress seemed to have been made in the highly important matter of arranging for regular steamship service with New York for the coming winter season, the Board at a meeting held on June 9th, after careful consideration of the whole question and in view of the importance of the interests involved, decided to send a representative of the Board to New York with the intention of negotiating a contract for such a service. Mr. R. H. Curry, M.H.A., at the request of the Board, proceeded to New York for the purpose, and on his return in December was enabled to report to the Board that he had been successful in his mission, and had negotiated a contract with the Munson S.S. Line, which was subsequently adopted by the Government. The Board were much gratified at the successful outcome of Mr. Curry's efforts, which provided the Colony with a first-class regular and frequent mail, passenger and freight steamship service with New York, and feel that they, and the Colony generally, are indebted to Mr. Curry for the energy and perseverance with which he carried his mission to a successful conclusion.

" In July, the Board, in conjunction with the Public Board of Works, undertook the work of the improvement of the borders of the country roads in New Providence. The Board regard the results obtained up to the present, especially on West Bay Street, as eminently satisfactory, and they hope to continue this policy until all the country roads have been similarly beautified and improved.

" The Board, in July, approached the President of the Toronto Exhibition with a view to having the Colony represented at the Annual Exhibition in the autumn, but were unable to carry out

their attention, as no one could be procured to superintend the exhibit. Among other subjects discussed by the Board, but on which, for a variety of reasons, no action was found to be practicable, were the acquisition of a piece of land on the west sea front for a public bathing beach, the erection of a telephone line to the landing at South-West Bay, and the refutation of allegations regarded as detrimental to the interests of the Colony, which had originally appeared in a New York newspaper.

" In August, the Board, ordered a reel of motion pictures entitled, ' Sponging for a Living,' which had been taken on ' The Mud ' by a representative of the Ford Motor Car Company. An effort made to have this shown at the Toronto Exhibition was unsuccessful, but the film will be available for exhibition locally when the opportunity offers.

" At the request of the Board the Editor of the *Toronto Sunday World* published one of the articles on Nassau for which a prize had been awarded last year, and one was also sent to the Canadian Pacific R.R. Company. That company was also approached by the Board with a view to obtaining their co-operation in procuring good motion pictures of Nassau, to be released through the Associated Screen News in Canada and the United States.

" During the year the Raymond and Whitcomb Company, of Boston and New York, were again appointed agents of the Board, and the contract with the Foster Travel Information Service (" Ask Mr. Foster ') was also renewed. Mr. Reese, of the Florida East Coast Hotel Company, was again appointed one of the Board's representatives in New York, and Messrs. Albury and Freeman were appointed the Board's agents in Miami, Florida. The West India Committee have also kindly consented to continue to act in the same capacity in London. A large supply of the Board's literature advertising the Colony as a winter resort was sent to all of these representatives, and the fact that the demand for this class of advertising matter is continually increasing abroad is regarded by the Board as being of good omen for the future of the tourist interests of the Colony. Six selected large coloured photographs of Nassau, by Mr. Fred Armbrister, were also sent to Miami for advertising purposes, being exhibited first in the offices of Messrs. Albury and Freeman, and afterwards in the ' Ask Mr. Foster ' Bureau of Information.

" The road in front of the Rest House at the landing at South-West Bay has been improved, and the present wharf is being extended 100 feet in length, and an additional 50 feet is being run at right angles from the end of the wharf in a westerly direction. It is hoped that these extensions, which take the wharf out into deeper water and provide protection against surge, will greatly facilitate the landing of passengers at that spot. A communication was sent to the Public Board of Works inviting that Board to take over control of the Rest House recently erected by the Board at the same place.

"Recognizing the imperative necessity of extending the Board's programme of advertising for the season of 1922, the Board, in January, invited the Legislature to grant them an additional sum of £2,000 for that purpose. This was readily done, and the Board was consequently enabled greatly to increase expenditure in this respect. The sum of $10,000 was placed at the joint disposal of the Raymond and Whitcomb Company, the Florida East Coast Hotel Company, and the Munson S.S. Line, for advertising extensively in some fifteen widely read newspapers and a number of popular magazines; advertisements were inserted over a period of eight weeks in two Miami newspapers, and over a period of three months through the 'Where-to-go' Bureau; the local weather report was telegraphed daily to one of the Board's representatives in New York for publication in the *New York Herald*; the services of a press representative at the Hotel Colonial were engaged, who furnished regular reports which appeared in the social columns of various newspapers, and other means were employed to induce tourists to visit Nassau.

"The result of these measures became manifest in February, when Nassau contained more visitors than ever before in its history as a winter resort. The Hotels Colonial and Royal Victoria were both filled to capacity, and a number of visitors who were unable to obtain accommodations there were referred by the manager to the Board, through the agency of which their wants in that respect were supplied elsewhere. The lesson to be drawn is obvious, and if Nassau is to attain and maintain that prominent position as a winter resort in this part of the world, to which its climate and other advantages and attractions entitle it, a continuous and extensive advertising programme will have to be carried on during an initial period of, say, five years.

"The destruction by fire of the Hotel Colonial on the last day of March, at practically the end of a successful season, is greatly to be regretted and will undoubtedly prove to be a severe setback to the future of the tourist interests of the Colony, as the fame of that hostelry had spread far and wide and it was the centre of most of the season's gaieties. Before its loss the necessity of providing additional accommodation for winter visitors had become evident, as the then existing accommodation had proved to be insufficient; and the provision of further hotels was one of the problems with which the Board had resolved to deal during the next financial year.

"The early replacement of accommodations at least equal to those provided by the Hotel Colonial is a matter of imperative necessity if the position already achieved is to be maintained, and the success of the season just ended has also clearly indicated the advisability of taking immediate steps to ensure the provision as soon as possible of other first-class accommodation for winter visitors to the Colony."

The Out Islands.

The following is a brief résumé of the reports of the Out Island Commissioners :—

Abaco (Green Turtle Cay).—The estimated value of Imports was £22,000.

The following are particulars of the principal exports of native products :—

	£
Cane Syrup, value	250
Sisal	300
Sponges	1,500
Timber	44,994

Forty vessels cleared outwards with cargoes for foreign ports.

Wages paid at the timber works amounted to £20,000.

Abaco (Hope Town).—The sponge industry was not carried on to such an extent as formerly.

About 4,000 gallons of cane syrup were manufactured.

A large three-masted schooner was built and launched.

The inhabitants are preparing to develop a tomato trade direct with the United States as soon as the proposed wireless telegraph station has been established.

The fleet of fishing smacks owned at Cherokee Sound Village earned more money than in any previous year.

Andros.—Sponging continued to be the mainstay of the island, but prices were lower than usual.

The people are turning their attention to agriculture. There is a considerable quantity of land under coco-nuts, and the yield was satisfactory.

Biminis.—The tourist season proved a failure owing principally to lack of shipping facilities.

The air service was good. Eighty-three planes arrived bringing between 300 and 400 persons.

Eleuthera.—The pineapple industry continues to decline. Tomato cultivation has considerably increased, but owing principally to dry weather the crop was small.

Exuma.—Agricultural returns were good and exports of stock were the largest on record. Large quantities of poultry and eggs were shipped to Nassau.

Grand Bahama.—Agriculture was in a poor condition. Cultivations were destroyed by a hurricane in the month of November.

Sponging is now the principal industry.

Harbour Island.—The trade of the district was good. The local schooners again made profitable voyages.

Shipbuilding gave steady employment throughout the year. A four-masted schooner of 600 tons was launched.

Large quantities of fruit and vegetables were sold at Nassau.

A Radio-telegraph station was installed and opened for use on 21st October.

Inagua.—In the early part of the year agriculturists did remarkably well, but during the latter half the reverse conditions obtained, owing to drought.

The quantity of salt raked was 101,000 bushels, valued at £1,262. Almost all of the salt produced was shipped to New York and Jamaica.

A Radio-telegraph station was opened for use on 6th December.

The salt industry offers large possibilities, but local business men are unable to furnish the necessary capital for its successful working.

Long Cay.—Food crops were scanty, owing to drought. The price of sisal being low, very little was exported.

Coco-nut groves were in a thriving condition, and the demand for nuts exceeded the supply.

Long Island.—Considerable attention was given to Agriculture during the year, but owing to drought the results were disappointing. Plantains and bananas, however, were not affected, and large quantities were exported. This island is now one of the principal stock-producing districts of the Colony. Considerable numbers of cattle and sheep were shipped to Nassau.

Ragged Island.—Agriculture, hitherto neglected, is now being vigorously pursued. Salt-raking is the principal industry of the island.

Rum Cay.—The cultivation of food crops was extended.

The people are making efforts to revive the salt industry of the island.

San Salvador (Arthur's Town).—The principal exports were :—

Sisal	226,400 lb.
Bark	13,850 lb.

The cultivation of sugar-cane commanded attention, and a considerable quantity of syrup was manufactured.

San Salvador (The Bight).—Food crops were plentiful. Owing to the low price of sisal, large quantities of fibre were stored in the district in anticipation of a rise in value. The decline in the sisal market was the cause of considerable emigration to Florida.

Watlings.—The production of sisal was large, but the decline in the value of fibre has had a depressing effect upon the people, and emigration continues. The corn crop was good.

There was an increase in the export of live stock.

P. W. D. ARMBRISTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Nassau, Bahamas.
25th October, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1109	British Guiana	1920
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,
1128	St. Vincent	,,
1129	St. Helena	,,
1130	Fiji	,,
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1192.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1922–23.

(For Report for 1921-22 see No. 1145.)

LONDON:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; York Street, Manchester; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or 120 George Street, Edinburgh.

1924.

Price 9d. Net.

No. 1192.

BAHAMAS.

* REPORT BY THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE BAHAMAS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1923.

Note.—The figures dealing with finance are for the year ended 31st March, 1923, with Trade and Customs for the year ended 31st December, 1922 (as desired by the Board of Trade).

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue was £852,573, as compared with £470,987 in 1921–22, an increase of £381,586.

The increase in Customs revenue, as shown in the following statement, was due to increased importations of all goods, but chiefly liquors.

The following statement gives the Customs receipts for three years :—

	£
1920–21	219,203
1921–22	426,809
1922–23	797,260

The expenditure was £377,164, as against £267,402 in 1921–22, an increase of £109,762.

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past three years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
	£	£	£
1920–21	254,019	220,813	+ 33,206
1921–22	470,987	267,402	+203,585
1922–23	852,573	377,164	+475,409

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1923, was £795,246.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622-10].

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
MAR 1 5 1924

DEBT.

The Public Debt, bearing interest at 4, 4½, and 5 per cent., was originally £128,326, and now stands at £23,465.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The current coins are British silver and copper and a very little gold.

United States gold and silver certificates are not legal tender but are accepted if of $5 and upwards at the same rate as United States gold.

Local Currency notes of £1, 10s. and 4s. denominations are in circulation.

British currency notes of the £1 and 10s. denominations are also in circulation.

Local deposits in the Royal Bank of Canada amounted to £853,623 on 31st March, 1923.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports during the year, including coin, was £1,963,152, as against £1,095,999 in 1920, showing an increase over last year of £867,153.

The following statement shows the nature and value of the imports for the last three years, grouped under the Board of Trade classification :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Class 1.			
Foodstuffs	329,913	197,072	248,444
Malt	6,126	8,299	14,750
Spirits	272,970	478,896	1,003,646
Wines	18,004	20,459	27,262
Tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes	18,717	15,624	20,171
Live Stock	146	188	1,073
Total Class 1.	£645,876	£720,538	£1,315,346
Class 2—			
Raw Materials	28,074	20,127	30,526
Class 3—			
Manufactured Articles	407,626	329,834	617,160
Specie	8,641	25,500	120
Total	£1,090,217	£1,095,999	£1,963,152

(13213) Wt. 21767 1528 625 2/24. Harrow G.94 A 2

The share of the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and Foreign Countries in the Import trade for each of the three years was :—

Countries.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	228,649	408,745	672,785
Canada	49,570	32,141	41,088
Jamaica	39,832	26,492	21,838
Other British Possessions	4,100	1,038	725
Total, British Empire	322,151	468,416	736,436
America	744,096	610,128	1,187,962
Cuba	16,652	2,076	10,218
France	3,340	11,258	19,528
Holland	3,304	2,062	2,849
Germany	—	—	3,409
Other Countries	674	2,059	2,750
Total, All Countries	£1,090,217	£1,095,999	£1,963,152

Of the total imports *ad valorem* duties were paid on goods to the value of £639,213, or 33 per cent. ; specific duties on goods valued at £1,055,752, or 54 per cent. ; and goods to the value of £268,187, or 13 per cent., were admitted free of duty.

EXPORTS.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade for the last three years :—

Countries.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	39,741	34,809	35,021
Bermuda	6,146	26,418	18,600
Canada	10,009	50,937	173,257
Jamaica	1,684	2,030	1,263
Other British Possessions	—	108	—
Total, British Empire	,580	114,302	228 141
Belgium	1,364	3,361	2,712
Cuba	4,946	42,468	22,406
France	30,143	19,687	19,106
Germany	3,491	3,411	388
Holland	13,240	23,897	14,357
Mexico	—	34,322	181,572
Miquelon	—	25,000	1,208,718
America	186,216	109,709	146,093
Other Countries	3,427	2,013	2,242
Total	£300,407	£378,170	£1,827,735

Exports to the Mother Country increased to the extent of £212 in value.

Exports to the United States of America amounted to £146,093 or 8 per cent. of the total exports. The chief products shipped were—pineapples, £3,892; tomatoes, £23,526; Bahamas hemp, £26,417; and sponge, £56,907.

Exports to Canada showed an increase of £122,320. The chief exports were pineapples, £1,236; sponge, £1,335; and unclassified goods, £170,786.

Exports to France showed a decrease of £581; chief export, sponge, £19,105.

Exports to Cuba showed a decrease of £18,857, there being a decrease of £15,322 in the chief export, lumber.

The following table gives the total aggregate trade of the Colony for the three years 1920–1922:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1920	1,090,217	300,407	1,390,624
1921	1,095,999	378,170	1,474,169
1922	1,963,152	1,827,735	3,790,887

The nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entering and clearing during the year 1922 were as follows:—

Vessels Entered.

Nationality.	No.	Tons.
British: Sails	153	14,618
Steam	411	212,630
Cuban: Sails	2	500
Steam	4	3,047
Danish: Steam	15	23,137
French: Steam	1	4,229
Honduranian: Steam ..	2	106
Norwegian: Steam ..	17	18,583
Swedish: Steam	2	1,109
American: Sails	12	4,396
Steam ..	1,032	439,491
Total ..	1,651	721,846

Vessels Cleared.

Nationality.	No.	Tons.
British : Sails	154	17,356
Steam	457	208,758
Cuban : Steam	4	3,047
Danish : Steam	16	25,360
French : Steam	1	4,229
Honduranian : Sails ..	1	31
Steam ..	1	31
Norwegian : Steam ..	16	16,360
Swedish : Steam	2	1,109
American : Sails	9	3,466
Steam ..	1,020	438,363
Total ..	1,681	718,110

AGRICULTURE.

Extracts from the Report of the Board of Agriculture are subjoined :—

" Weather conditions at the beginning of the winter season were very favourable to agricultural operations. During the months of September and October, the time for sowing seed for the winter crop, the rainfall was all that could be desired. Light and frequent showers gave the planters the opportunity to make an early start and thus secure an early crop and fancy prices in the foreign market. Tomatoes were shipped in November, and these shipments in many cases netted one pound a crate. Favourable weather conditions continued to the end of the year, with the result that the largest crop of this vegetable known for many years was harvested.

" The large operations in tomatoes at East End of New Providence and Rose Island were very successful. The yield per acre was considerably in excess of the average. In some instances 300 bushels to the acre were obtained, and this for our irregular lands is excellent.

" These operations provided employment for many labourers, and it became necessary to make special efforts to get labour from the Out Islands to harvest the crop.

" 130,171 crates of tomatoes were exported during the season, which is just about double the number of last season and means a valuation of about £70,000.

" Transportation was all that could be desired after January, but in December, when the crop was heaviest, there was considerable loss because of the fortnightly service. Next season we are of opinion that some effort should be made to get a weekly service

in December. A few of the Out Island growers suffer loss by wreck and failing to connect with the steamers at Nassau, but as far as I know everyone connected with the tomato industry is satisfied with the year's results, and there is every prospect that next season will start off with many new operators in the field. Already enquiries are being made for land suitable for tomato growing on or near New Providence.

"The Garden Truck crop was about the average. Here in Nassau there was a greater number of people engaged and there was quite a perceptible increase both in quantity and quality of vegetables produced. The increased quantity, however, did not lower the prices obtained, for the demand was always greater than the supply. There is room for expansion along this line and the Board is making special effort to encourage the folks in the outlying districts to give more attention to this industry.

"The Board continued its policy of offering prizes for vegetable gardens. Last year only the Southern District was interested but this year Fox Hill and Eastern Districts entered into competition, and even in Grants Town many more were interested and competition was more keen. All the plots examined were superior to those of last year, this perhaps chiefly owing to favourable weather conditions.

"Bananas, oranges, grape fruit, melons and potatoes were in evidence and yielded to the growers handsome financial returns.

"It seems that it is impossible to keep pace with the demand and prices keep going up. Just why the Out Islands fail to take the fullest advantage of the Nassau market it is difficult to understand, but the fact remains that the supply of the home products is always less in demand.

"Onion seed was obtained early this year and in less than a week 100 lb. had been distributed. The prospect is that a very large crop will be harvested. Some growers at Harbour Island estimate that their crop will go as high as three or four tons. This yield for the small patches put under cultivation is excellent, and at two pence a pound pays better than any other thing than can be grown in the Colony. Orders are already placed for seed for next year.

"*Citrus.*—The Board continued to give attention to the citrus trees in the Harbour Island District. In the township the trees scattered here and there have been for the most part destroyed by the board, but the larger groves at both ends of the island have been preserved and may be said to be practically free from the 'Fly.'

"At the Current most of the large groves are in good condition, but here too the Board has destroyed the isolated and uncared for trees as a protection to others.

"The nursery in New Providence is doing well and in six months we shall be able to supply plants to any person desirous of making a beginning in New Providence.

"*Sisal.*—1,156 tons of sisal exported during the year. Value in New York £23,000.

"All stock stored has been disposed of, and there are signs of renewed life in this industry. The local price at time of writing is 12*s.* per 100lb.

"*Bees.*—The apiaries established in New Providence, Exuma, Long Island, Eleuthera and Spanish Wells are doing well. The supply of honey is steadily increasing, but had not yet caught up with local demand.

"The Board keeps on hand a supply of bee supplies, and is doing all possible to encourage and extend this industry.

"*Stock.*—The Board's efforts to improve the stock of the Colony, extending over many years, are now showing results. During this year sheep have been sold in the market that would compare favourably in size and condition with those produced in other countries."

FISHERIES.

The following are extracts from the Report of the Marine Products Board :—

Sponge.

"The trifling difference in the year's returns as compared with 1921, in favour of that year, is not to be attributed to any further falling off in demand for sponge. In the report for 1921, the Board stated : 'We are unable to predict a revival in the coming spring, prices will be steadier but the demand will be particular and the general market must suffer.'

"This forecast has been strictly verified, for the class of goods that were much wanted for the same reasons given in the Report for 1921 did not materialize in the market.

"The unfavourable financial conditions, there mentioned also, have not altered ; in fact they are more acute, as German marks have steadily declined and all Continental currency has suffered in sympathy, thus depriving the trade of its most remunerative markets.

"The difference in the amount of sales, though slight, would have been more marked, had not the Bight of Acklins been thrown open for fishing. As will be pointed out later, this feature in the year's business has saved the situation for 1922.

"This year's total, though nearly 3,000 less than last, is however in excess of the average sales on the Exchange before the industry passed under the discipline of the Board, as £81,320 16*s.* 4*d.* would have been considered a very satisfactory total in any year prior to 1904.

"The Board, notwithstanding depressions, is quite cheerful as to the general prospect. Buyers have increased in number, and, if the Exchange can be supplied with No. 1 Velvet and fine goods steadily, 1923 may recover much of the ground lost in 1921 and 1922. In any case, the Board is thoroughly justified in pursuing an active policy of protection and production, so that when the Colony resumes its normal conditions, as it surely must, there will be a flourishing sponge trade upon which it can depend in the future as it has depended in the past.

Closures.

"The Bight of Acklins was thrown open for fishing on the 1st of August. This action was taken after much deliberation. As the Board's plantations there are yet in the 'nursery stage' it was thought that the opening would prove fatal to them. But, on the other hand, it was urged that the Bight was suffering from the same ignorant and undisciplined conditions that prevailed at the island of Lesina, and compelled the Austrian Government to abandon the Sponge Farms that Professor Bucish had established there.

"In the latter case the Mediterranean fishermen thought the culture of the sponge was a direct blow aimed at the natural fisheries and contemplated with little satisfaction the efforts of science to improve and increase a valuable marine product. Hence they destroyed the farms. In the former, the spongers at Acklins looked upon the Board's Farms as the 'thin edge of the wedge' that was to separate them from what they considered an inalienable right, viz: free fishing on the Bight.

"The continued closure of the Ferry waters forced this conclusion upon them, and it was of no avail to point out that the Ferry was but a hand's breadth of water, which had long ago been fished out, and its closure could have no effect on the Exuma fisheries but to improve them, but that the Board could not close a sponge fishery forty-five miles in length and sixteen in breadth permanently.

"The results in both cases were the same: The Farms were molested and many plants destroyed. The opening of the Bight has changed public opinion entirely, and the people of Acklins, with a few exceptions, and these exceptions are incited by the traders, who for present gain, would destroy the future benefits of closures, are enthusiastic over the rich harvest the Bight yielded to their toil.

"The sales from the Bight on the Exchange aggregated £5,337 10*s*. 2*d*. and in addition there has been much local buying: six buyers at least, whose purchases must amount to approximately two thousand pounds, were attracted to the Bight. No reliable figures can be attained, but from what information the Board has received it is confident that the sales at Acklins were not less than the figures given, making a grand total of over seven thousand pounds (£7,000) against an expense of three hundred and ninety-six pounds (£396), the cost of the closure.

" It is also to be considered that the catching of wool sponge was prohibited, and as Acklins wool is the most coveted of all Bahamian sponges, there is little doubt that at least one thousand pounds more would have been sold if that variety had been marketed.

" On the whole the Board has great cause for congratulation with its work in the Bight. Ten years ago the Bight yielded practically nothing. The beds harassed by ruthless invasions had no chance to produce, and the species discouraged by oppression were gradually disappearing. To-day Acklins has resumed its old place in the industry and the opening of the Bight is now looked upon as an event in the trade. The Bight closed automatically on the 31st of December.

" With the exception of the Ferry there are no other closures, but the Board hopes to deal with the Abaco Bight, which is lapsing into the same deplorable condition of exhaustion from which it was rescued by the Board in 1906.

Culture.

" The Farms planted at the Bight of Acklins have, as already reported, suffered from (1) the natural average of loss incidental to any cultivations whether on land or at sea, (2) the attacks of the discontented people, already enlarged on in earlier Reports to the Executive and in this Report. But there are many yet in good condition, and if the Reports of the Watchman are to be relied on, growing steadily. Specimens have been submitted from time to time and show fine progress ; some of these exhibits were inspected by the Imperial Biologist, Mr. R. I. Crawshay, and considered excellent.

" With the grant placed at the disposal of the Board it was decided to restock the farms at Acklins and plant some new ones in other locations in the Bight and also to increase the Ferry Farm, where the results, though small in scale, have been eminently satisfactory.

" Exceedingly fine specimens are growing at the Ferry. It is intended to have these sent to market in the coming season as a further demonstration of the value and practicability of sponge culture.

" As our islands are subject to long and distressing droughts, sponge fisheries would be a natural supplement that would furnish continual employment and go far toward limiting their demand on the Government for aid. In the past the small sponge beds, unprotected as they were, were soon depleted and the species destroyed. Under protection they would furnish a steady revenue which, though small, could be of vast benefit to the people. It is the Board's desire to extend the cultivation throughout the Colony and thus leave a permanent mark of its usefulness and also employ some of the Colony's revenue in one of the most practical services to which it can be put.

Turtle Shell.

"There has been a fluctuating market for this luxury.

"While there has been nothing startling to report, yet there has been a fairly good demand, and like all luxuries it has suffered in sympathy with the declining value of foreign exchange.

"There is no fear, however, of this product ever falling as low as it did during the War, and turtlers may expect to find a ready and profitable market here, whatever may be the fortune of the speculator in their wares. Fair prices will rule and turtlers have no need to be discouraged.

Bêche-de-Mer.

"The death of one and the severe illness of another of the firm of Woo Joe & Co., have interrupted operations in this industry. With the exception of one station at Sweeting's Point, there are no curing fisheries at Abaco at work at present.

"It is the intention, however, of Mr. Woo Joe to continue business, and, as soon as his staff is recruited, he will resume operations.

"In these circumstances, quoting statistics would create a wrong impression and so none are given here.

Other Marine Products.

"Shells are not actively in demand, and, as it appears that the largest, if not the sole, exporter of conch shells is retiring from business, the trade in shells may dwindle to nothing.

"Pearls are not to be considered as an export any longer, all transactions being incidental and local, and fishermen have lost interest in hunting for them. The same remarks may apply to shark skins. Either there is no demand or the fishermen do not find it remunerative to fish for sharks, for as far as the Board knows, there has been no activity in shark skins at all."

Manufactures.

Pineapple Canning Factories.—The export of tinned pineapples during the last five years :—

1918	22,315	cases, valued at		£7,454
1919	18,604	,,	,, ,,	£7,591
1920	11,050	,,	,, ,,	£7,924
1921	3,476	,,	,, ,,	£1,367
1922	6,437	,,	,, ,,	£4,234

Lumber.—The Bahamas Cuban Company at Abaco exported 4,784,000 ft. of pine.

Salt.—The exports amounted to 84,000 bushels, valued at £1,463.

Lands and Forests.

There were 52 grants of Crown land made during the year 1922, the area being 163¾ acres. Approximately a total of 372,516 acres of land in the Colony have been granted by the Crown to private persons, and 2,427,744 acres remain ungranted.

It is not the policy of the Crown, at present, to sell lands outright, except in the case of lots required for building or for such other special purposes as may be approved by the Governor of the Colony, but leases will be granted by arrangement and on reasonable terms.

On the island of New Providence there is an area of Crown land containing about seven square miles covered with pine forest. A licence to cut and manufacture these trees into lumber has been granted for a short period.

The islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama, and Andros also have extensive areas covered with pine forest, and the right to cut and manufacture these trees has been granted for a long period to an American Company.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Acts were added to the Statute Book.

The Treasurer was authorised to pay off out of the general revenue of the Colony all outstanding debentures issued under the provisions of The Debenture Act, 1888, and The Telegraph Act, 1893.

Provision was made, and £27,000 granted for general improvements at the Out Islands.

The amount voted in the Appropriation Act was £499,386, which included £304,500 to provide hotel and other accommodation for tourists.

A new act relating to Motor Cars was passed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The teaching staff employed by the Board of Education consisted of 52 principal teachers, 4 assistant teachers, 6 pupil teachers, 193 monitors, 6 sewing teachers, 4 students in training, and 38 employed in aided schools.

The total numbers receiving primary education are given in the following table :—

	1921			1922		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Board Schools ..	3,964	3,661	7,625	4,307	3,888	8,195
Aided Private Schools	1,295	1,281	2,576	1,478	1,432	2,910
Church of England ..	483	570	1,053	441	527	968
Roman Catholic ..	219	309	528	242	370	612
Private Schools ..	8	21	29	14	26	40
Total ..	5,969	5,842	11,811	6,482	6,243	12,725

Primary education is compulsory between the ages of six and fourteen years, is provided by the Government, and is controlled by a Board of Education consisting of twelve members appointed annually by the Governor. The Board receives an annual grant from the Legislature of £6,000, out of which school-houses, teachers' residences, etc., have to be provided and kept in repair, as well as the payment of teachers' salaries and general expenses. In addition to the annual grant, the Board received from the Treasury, for the augmentation of teachers' salaries and the defraying of other expenses, the sum of £6,500 during the year under review. The cost is greatly enhanced by the breaking up of the population into many small settlements, long distances apart, on the various islands, themselves separated many miles. The average cost for each child on the rolls, inclusive of special grants for repairs and new buildings, is £1 5s. 11d., and for each child in average attendance £2 2s. 3d.

There is still no State provision for secondary education, but private organisations connected with religious bodies provided higher instruction as follows :—

Name of School.	No. of Boys.	No. of Girls.	Total.
Queen's College and Preparatory School (Wesleyan)	75	71	146
St. Hilda's High School (Church of England) ..	8	52	60
St. Francis Xavier's Academy (Roman Catholic)	15	27	42
Total ..	98	150	248

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

The Bahamas General Hospital (originally established in 1809 as a poor-house) comprises the hospital proper, a paying patients' ward, infirmary, dispensary, lunatic asylum, and leper wards.

The number of inmates on the 31st December, 1922, was :—

Alexandra Hospital	..	42	males,	34	females.
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary		18	,,	19	,,
Lunatic Asylum	.. ..	21	,,	25	,,
Leper Asylum	.. ..	4	,,	4	,,
Totals	..	85	males.	82	females.

During the year 1922 there were 955 admissions, making a total under treatment of 1,105.

There were 148 surgical operations performed under a general anæsthetic in the Alexandria Hospital; 4,252 cases were prescribed for or treated for minor surgical ailments at the out-patients (or dispensary) department. At the Public Dispensary 17,324 prescriptions were dispensed.

The institution is managed by a Board appointed annually by the Governor.

Savings Bank.

During the year ended 30th June, 1922, 6,082 deposits amounting to £22,488, and 4,420 withdrawals amounting to £18,552 were made, an excess of £3,936 over withdrawals.

The number of depositors on the 30th June, 1922, was 3,673, including 634 dead and unclaimed accounts.

The total liabilities amounted to £45,138, assets to £50,105, and an estimated surplus of £3,343 based on the investments at their approximate value.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The births in 1922 numbered 1,737, as against 2,142 in 1921. The deaths were 1,407, as against 1,152 in 1921. The birth-rate was 31, and the death-rate 25·2.

The estimated population on 1st January, 1921, was ..		56,151
Births, 1922	1,737	
Deaths, 1922	1,407	
Add excess of births		330
		56,481
Immigrants exceeded Emigrants by		443
Estimated population on 1st January, 1923		56,924

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS.

The following are the meteorological data for the past three years :—

Year	Temperature		Means of			Extremes of		
	7.30 a.m.	3 p.m.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Rainfall inches.
	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	
1920 ..	76·5	78·0	77·3	82·6	71·8	90·5	60·2	38·96
1921 ..	77·5	78·7	78·1	83·0	73·2	91·0	62·3	46·83
1922 ..	77·0	79·5	78·3	83·4	73·0	90·5	61·0	48·23

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

POSTAL.

The postal revenue for 1922-23 was £8,683, as against £6,408 in the previous year.

The total cost of the postal administration, including foreign and interinsular mail services, amounted to £44,206, of which mail subsidies accounted for £41,550, Foreign £31,454, Interinsular £10,096.

TELEGRAPHS.

In volume of traffic and revenue derived therefrom the department established a new high record.

The revenue was £11,148, with expenditure of £9,012.*

27,377 telegrams were received and despatched.

TELEPHONES.

There are now 500 telephones on the system.

The revenue was £2,039 and expenditure £3,027.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The revenue was £5,824 and expenditure £8,227.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLONY.

I append extracts from the report of the Development Board :—

Advertising.

" Owing to the uncertainty of the New Colonial Hotel being completed for the season the Board found it difficult during the summer and autumn to decide on any definite form of advertising. Tentative arrangements, however, were made with the firm of Wood, Putnam & Wood, Boston, and as it appeared likely in

* Includes cost of apparatus for Nassau and Out Islands £4,000.

December that there was a probability of the New Hotel being ready in February the Board authorized the advertising to be proceeded with, and attractive advertisements were accordingly inserted in the following papers :—

" *Sunday Herald and Transcript* (Boston), *Times and Herald* (New York), *Inquirer* (Philadelphia), *Courant* (Hartford), *Post* (Washington), *Journal* (Providence), *Gazette* (Pittsburg), *Republican* (Springfield), *Courier* (Buffalo), *American and News* (Baltimore), *Herald and Metropolis* (Miami).

" Apart from the advertising carried out by Messrs. Wood, Putnam & Wood, the Board advertised the Colony in the following periodicals :—

" *Who's Who, Review of Reviews, The Century, Scribners, World's Work, The Canadian, Atlantic Monthly and Harpers, Aspinall's Pocket Guide to the West Indies and The Independent.*

" The advertisement in the last named paper secured for the Colony the privilege of being included in a Radio Talk on winter resorts.

" The Board also had printed a number of stickers or stamps with views of the Colony to be used for the sealing of envelopes. It is hoped that a certain amount of advertisement will be secured by this means.

" In order to make the Colony better known abroad, the Chairman, while in England, extended on behalf of the Board an invitation to Viscount Burnham, C.H., to include the Colony in his tour of the West Indies, and the Board was pleased to welcome Lord Burnham to Nassau in January last. The Chairman also arranged at the request of the Board for Mr. Stephen McKenna, the novelist, to visit Nassau, and it is hoped that as a result of both Lord Burnham's and Mr. McKenna's visit the Colony will become better known in England and that a few English tourists at least might visit us.

" Mr. J. L. Wilson Goode, Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, was also invited to visit Nassau in February, and arrangements were made for him to do so, but unfortunately he could not secure passage when he found it convenient to leave Jamaica. He has, however, promised to visit Nassau later on in the year.

" It was also arranged that Mr. Curry, a member of the Board, should meet Mr. Wells-Durrant, the Chairman of the Jamaica Trade Development Board, in New York in August to discuss the question of arranging for a series of excursion tours through the Canadian Government Merchant Marine steamships including Nassau and Jamaica, but owing to the unforeseen circumstances the interview did not take place.

" During the summer the Board's folder and the pamphlet giving information to intending settlers, etc., were both revised and improved, and about five thousand of the former and three thousand of the latter have since been distributed.

"In addition to the above, the booklet 'Isles of June' was also revised and a great number used. The Board also had printed approximately eight hundred copies of the booklet giving information with respect to the renting of houses, etc., and practically all of these were sent to persons making application for same.

"As on previous occasions the Board had a representative to meet the passengers arriving on all steamers for the purpose of giving information on their arrival, and a letter of welcome was sent to each visitor to the Island enclosing a copy of the Board's folder.

"The Board also assisted the Commissioner of Harbour Island in obtaining postal views of that township for distribution, and The Bahamas Weaving and Lace Industry was also assisted financially.

"In June the Board had the pier at South West Bay extended and improved, as well as the surroundings, and had lights placed in the vicinity for use on dark nights.

"In the same month the Board procured from the West India Committee seven large maps of the West Indies, with the intention of supplying the same at cost price to any one wanting them; and in addition to the maps of the city of Nassau and the Island of New Providence, the Board had a map of the Colony made and inserted in their pamphlet for intending settlers.

"The Board also had made enlargements of views of life and scenery in the Bahamas, sets of which were sent to the West India Committee, the Royal Colonial and the Imperial Institutes, and the offices of the Munson and Ward S.S. Line in New York, for the purpose of advertising, and in addition to these enlargements, purchased some aerial views of New Providence for the Board's office."

The Out Islands.

The following is a brief résumé of the reports of the Out Island Commissioners:—

Abaco (Green Turtle Cay).—The estimated value of imports was £30,150.

The following are particulars of the principal exports of native products:—

	£
Cane Syrup, 2,000 gallons, value	300
Sisal Fibre	200
Sponges	1,000
Timber, 5,010,000 feet	26,900
Miscellaneous	800
Total	29,200

The output of timber at the sawmills for the year was approximately 6,000,000 feet. Wages paid at the mills amounted to £25,000.

Abaco (Hope Town).—The sponge industry was not so successful as in former years.

Sugar-cane yielded about 6,000 gallons of syrup.

The fishing fleet at Cherokee Sound Settlement made prosperous voyages. The business flourished to such an extent that three new schooners were built, and arrangements are being made to build one with power.

Andros (Man[illegible]Cay).—The sponge industry has declined, and all sponge factories (with one exception) have been closed. Emigration to Florida continues steadily.

Andros (Fresh Creek and Nicoll's Town).—Sponging continues to be the principal industry of the district. Agriculture is increasing, and during the year bananas, plantains, peas, yams, and sugar-canes were sold in large quantities.

There are thousands of acres under sisal, but the price offered for the fibre is below the cost of production.

There are more than three hundred acres planted with coconuts and many thousands of nuts were exported.

Biminis.—A wireless telegraph station was established during the year.

309 vessels entered from foreign ports and 293 cleared.

The tourist season was not a success. The hotel opened in January and closed in April.

Eleuthera.—Tomato cultivation is the principal industry of the island, and excellent prices were received for early shipments. The crop was very large.

Bananas were exported in considerable quantities.

Pineapples, once the principal industry, are now of minor importance. Sisal is no longer cultivated owing to the prevailing low prices offered for fibre.

Exuma.—The Commissioner concludes his report as follows :—

> "These are a few of our assets: An equable climate, excellent harbours for vessels of light draught, unrivalled fishing and yachting; much game for the sportsman, and facilities for stocking a few cays with rabbits or any wild game for hunting; beautiful sites for rest houses and bungalows where care is unknown; facilities for supplying meat for hundreds of people every day, as Exuma supplies much of that consumed in Nassau at the present time; and soil capable of producing fruit and vegetables in abundance."

Grand Bahama.—Sponging continues to be the principal industry of the island.

Large quantities of cassava and sweet potatoes were grown and shipped to Nassau where high prices were obtained.

The crop of grape fruit was very large but prices were unremunerative.

Harbour Island.—The trade of the district was very good. The value of the imports was £21,213. Exports comprised tomatoes, pineapples, coconuts, fruit and vegetables.

Fishing smacks made profitable voyages.

The Radio Station was satisfactorily operated during the year.

A successful exhibition of agricultural products, arts, and crafts, was held in March : 105 awards were given, exclusive of special prizes.

His Excellency the Governor visited the exhibition.

Inagua.—Owing to unprecedented drought agriculture was a complete failure during the year.

Salt is the only industry that can be regarded as having any future. Although large quantities had been made ready for export, only 44,436 bushels were shipped. The demand for coarse salt was small. In future the salt will be crushed.

Wild donkeys continue to be a great hindrance to agriculture. Despite great discouragement the agricultural outlook at the end of the year under review was brighter.

Long Cay.—Owing to scanty rainfall, crops of vegetables were small, but oranges and grape fruit were plentiful.

Stock raising is now receiving attention. Very little sisal fibre was shipped. prices being exceedingly low.

Long Island.—Agriculture is one of the principal industries, but food crops were the smallest produced in many years owing to severe drought.

Sisal, hitherto the mainstay of the island during drought, afforded the people little or no assistance, as there was practically no demand for the fibre.

Stock raising was successful and shipments brought excellent prices.

Ragged Island.—Despite the long drought the year under review was a prosperous one for the district. Considerable quantities of salt were raked and exported.

Trade with Haiti has been resumed and large quantities of dried fish were shipped there for sale.

The Commissioner remarks, " One never hears of hardness of times here."

Rum Cay.—With the completion of the sea wall at the Eastern Canal, salt-raking has been resumed.

Agriculture was a complete failure owing to drought, and the people have had a very hard time.

Emigration to Florida continues.

San Salvador (Arthur's Town).—The low price of sisal and long drought were the cause of much privation. 263,390 lb. of sisal fibre were shipped. Many of the men were obliged to leave the district in search of employment.

San Salvador (The Bight).—The year was a remarkably lean one for farmers as the crops were a failure. Little or nothing can be looked forward to by the planters from their cultivations. As a natural consequence, many have emigrated, and the district has become (temporarily it is hoped) much depopulated. Old men state that they have never before known the island to be in such a dearth of food crops.

Watlings Island.—The year was a trying one. The rainfall was very scanty, consequently the fields are bare. The price of sisal was so low that it was not considered worth while to clean the fibre.

The extreme hardness of times has caused quite an exodus of men. Some settlements are now without a man in them ; only women and children are left.

P. W. D. ARMBRISTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,.Bahamas.
December, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921–1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	,,
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-Seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

PRINTED BY H.M.S.O. PRESS, HARROW.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1202.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1923–24.

(For Report for 1922-23 see No. 1192.)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1.
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1924.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1202.

BAHAMAS.

*ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923-24.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, "cays," and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and to the north of Cuba. It is said that there are about seven hundred islands and "cays," and over two thousand rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles, or one half the size of Wales. Some twenty-five of the islands are inhabited, the principal being Abaco, Acklins, Andros, the Biminis, Cat Island, Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama, Harbour Island, Inagua, Long Cay, Long Island, New Providence, Ragged Island, Rum Cay, and Watling's.

2. New Providence, though not one of the larger islands, is easily the most important, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and nearly a quarter of the total population of the Colony. Harbour Island was the first island settled by the adventurers, who laid the foundations of the present Colony. Watling's Island (called, by Columbus, San Salvador) was the first land seen in the New World by the great explorer.

3. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow and low-lying, and, except in the cases of Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama, not well wooded. There are no mountains and very few hills. In spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture that is not easily forgotten.

4. The population of the Colony is approximately 53,000, mostly of the descendants of African slaves, but with probably a larger proportion of whites than in any other West Indian colony. During the winter months the islands, especially New Providence, are the resort of a large number of American tourists.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622-10].

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
OCT 18 1924

5. When the Bahamas were first discovered, in 1492, they were inhabited by Caribs, who were soon removed to Cuba by the Spaniards to work in the mines. The islands were visited at an early date by the settlers of Bermuda, and in 1647 the Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands. The Bahamas had already been included, as early as 1629, in a Royal grant, but the company now received them in a grant from Parliament, while a third grant was made by Charles the Second in 1670 vesting the islands in six of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. In 1717 the Lords Proprietors surrendered their rights to the Crown.

6. From a very early date the infant Colony was harassed by the Spaniards, who, on several occasions, sacked the settlements and drove out the inhabitants. The worst of these visitations occurred in 1684 and 1703, but on each occasion the undaunted colonists returned as soon as they could and patiently built up again the work which had been destroyed. The Colony was surrendered to a fleet of the American rebels in 1776, and again to the Spaniards in 1781, but was speedily retaken by a British force.

II.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

7. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, aided by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and Receiver General are members *ex officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the legislature.

8. The Legislative Council consists generally of nine members nominated by the Crown. The House of Assembly is composed of twenty-nine members, elected for fifteen districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property of the value of £200. The out islands seldom return a member of their own community, their twenty-one representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5, or the occupation of houses of the rental value of £2 8s. 0d. in New Providence, or half that amount in the out islands. At the last election there were 14,551 registered electors, which was over 27 per cent. of the population. Women have not the vote.

9. Even before the Royal Grant of 1670 the settlers had evolved for themselves a form of government which included an elective House of Assembly, and the constitution then formed has lasted with little modification to the present day. The inhabitants are naturally proud of the constitution, which they have been able to preserve in spite of all vicissitudes, and it has been the means of preserving amongst them an intense local patriotism and a keen interest in the administration of the Colony.

(14955) Wt. 6157/376 750 7/24 Harrow G.94

10. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various islands, and the receipts from the sale and leases of these Crown lands (£6,777 in 1923) are placed to the credit of a special fund, which is administered by the Governor, under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council, and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and, by voting sums to a number of Boards, composed largely of members of the Legislature, the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

11. The past year has seen the completion of the New Colonial Hotel, and a new golf course, to provide which the Government has advanced large sums of money. The result has been that more tourists than ever have flocked to the islands from Canada and the United States, and the money spent by these tourists, who belong chiefly to the wealthiest classes, has been of great benefit to the people. The value of house property in Nassau has risen considerably owing to the high prices paid by tourists during the winter months.

12. The lack of remunerative industries in the out islands is causing a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and it seems unlikely that anything can be done to check the gradual depopulation of these islands.

13. The general health of the community has been good.

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

14. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1918–19	81,048	98,236
1919–20	204,296	108,939
1920–21	254,019	269,495
1921–22	470,987	267,402
1922–23	852,573	377,164

15. The approximate revenue for the financial year ending 31st March, 1924, was £562,000 and the expenditure for the same period £452,000.

16. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1924, of approximately £895,000. Of this sum about £383,000 is invested in England in trustee securities. The public debt at the same date amounted to £21,805, but there is invested to the credit of sinking fund approximately £24,766, so the Colony may be said to be free from debt.

17. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony, but there is a large quantity of United States currency and British currency notes in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations—20s., 10s., and 4s.—and £40,000 worth of these notes are now in circulation.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

18. *Trade.*—The total value of the trade of the Bahamas during the year 1923 was as follows :—

	£
Import	2,119,000
Export	1,834,000
Total (excluding specie)	£3,953,000

an increase of about £163,000 on the trade of the preceding year.

19. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin was as follows :—

	£
United States of America	1,070,000
Great Britain	758,000
Canada	160,000

20. The values of the principal classes of articles imported during 1923 were as follows :—

	£
Spirits	1,010,000
Wines	66,000
Cordials and liqueurs	12,000
Malt	28,000
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes ...	22,000
Foodstuffs	314,000

21. The values of the principal articles of local produce were as follows :—

	£
Pineapples, preserved	7,133
Tomatoes, raw	39,245
Salt	639
Sisal hemp	38,381
Timber	29,329
Shells	10,508
Sponge	113,300

The total export of local produce was valued at £245,507 as against £1,584,000 of re-exports, principally spirits.

22. *Agriculture.*—The principal agricultural products of the Bahamas are tomatoes, pineapples and sisal hemp. The first is a comparatively new industry, but is making considerable progress, and employs a large amount of labour. Pineapples are not doing so well. The price of sisal was very low at the beginning of 1923, but it rose later in the year and a fair amount was exported. Experiments are now being made with a small portable machine for cleaning the sisal and it is possible, if the machine is a success, that the agricultural problems of the out islands will, to a certain degree, be solved. The citrus trees which were destroyed by fly some years ago have not yet been replaced.

23. *Land.*—The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 579 square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp, rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

24. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1923, eighty-one Crown Land Grants were issued varying in size from small lots of less than one acre in settlements, to a tract of forty-seven acres for agricultural purposes, the total area granted in 1923 being 373 acres.

25. The island of New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, is situated, has developed as a tourist resort, in consequence of which the value of land has greatly increased. Here the Crown owns only some barren land on which pine trees grow, with a few very limited areas fit for cultivation. On the outer islands of the group where vacant Crown land still exists, the rental charged for agricultural lands is at the rate of 1s. 6d. per acre. Similar land when improved by the tenant, would be sold for 25s. an acre.

V.—INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

26. *Forestry.*—This Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing almost side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests, growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine barren." The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

27. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignumvitæ and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as " horseflesh " is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madeira and Cedar. Cascarilla bark of an excellent quality grows wild and is exported when the market price is favourable.

28. *Salt.*—A small supply of salt is won from the ponds in some of the out islands.

29. *Fisheries.*—There are quantities of excellent fish in the waters of the Colony, but there is no fishing except for local consumption. There was formerly some trade in bêche-de-mer, which was exported to China, but this trade has practically disappeared. Turtle shell is exported, and there is a fairly large trade in conch shells; the cameo of commerce is manufactured from the lip of this shell.

30. Perhaps the principal industry of the Colony is sponging. Sponges are found in great quantities in all the shallow waters of the Bahamas, especially around the islands of Andros, Abaco, Exuma, Acklins, and Eleuthera. A large number of small vessels is employed on this work, the sponges being hooked up from the bottom by the crews of these vessels. Sponges are being planted in several localities, and extensive experiments are being carried out by an expert sent out by the Imperial Government.

VI.—BANKS.

31. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch at Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office department.

VII.—LEGISLATION.

32. The Judgments (Enforcement) Act, 1923, provides for the enforcement in the Bahamas of judgments obtained in a superior court in England or Ireland, and vice versa, and also for the enforcement of judgments obtained in a superior court in any part of His Majesty's dominions, the legislatures of which have made reciprocal provision for the enforcement of judgments obtained in the Supreme Court of the Bahamas.

33. Similar reciprocal arrangements are provided for by the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act, 1923.

34. The Hotel and Steamship Service Act, 1923, the Hotel Loan Act, 1923, and the Golf Course Act, 1923, sanctioned advances being made to a private corporation to provide increased accommodation and amusements for tourists.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

35. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided by Government. Secondary education is provided in schools under the control of various religious bodies.

36. In 1923–24 the sum of £20,000 was expended from public funds on education, under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

37. In New Providence, the education to be obtained in the schools is satisfactory, but in the out islands, owing to the difficulty of providing a school for each of the scattered communities, and the limited number of efficient teachers, the education available leaves a great deal to be desired.

IX.—CLIMATE.

38. The climate of the Bahamas, especially in the winter months, is one of the finest in the world, and is, probably, the Colony's greatest asset. From November to May the temperature averages 70° Fahrenheit, there is little rain, and cool breezes prevail. The lowest recorded temperature (in January, 1905) is 51·5°.

39. The rainy months are May, June, September and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. The average annual rainfall for the last nineteen years was forty-six inches.

40. The islands lie within the hurricane belt, but serious hurricanes are of rare occurrence, only four having occurred in the last sixty years.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

41. *Harbours.*—With the view of converting Nassau Harbour into a deep water port an order was placed in January, 1923, with Messrs. Lobintz, of Renfrew, for the construction of a dipper dredger, and a contract was given to an American dredging company for the removal of all sand in the main channel and mooring basin, so that, on arrival, the Government dredger could commence work on the remaining rock. Dredging was begun by the company in April and finished in August, 1923, 800,000 cubic yards of sand being removed. Two cross channels were cut leading from the main channel into the northern portion of the harbour, where a deeper area existed which had hitherto been difficult of access. The depth obtained as the result of the removal of the sand varies from a minimum of 14 ft. 6 ins. over the bar, which consists entirely of rock and was not touched, down to 26 ft. at low water at ordinary spring tides. Work has now been begun by the Government dredger, and it is intended to deepen the channel to 27 ft. over the outer portion, and 25 ft. over the inner portion and mooring basin, where it is ultimately proposed to construct a wharf 600 ft. long to enable vessels to load and discharge alongside.

42. *Shipping.*—In 1923, 1,394 steamers and 136 sailing vessels, of a total of 598,000 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England, via Bermuda, by the steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and a fortnightly service during the summer, from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line, which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid also to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica, and British Honduras; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail and the Ward Lines also call at Nassau.

43. Communication with the out islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but owing to the class of boat employed the voyages are uncomfortable and unreliable.

44. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade, and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

45. *Roads.*—In the out islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are little more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there is a considerable number of motors and carriages, and there are roads running around and across the island. Owing to the heavy traffic the roads are not in very good condition, but steps are now being taken to improve them.

46. *Post Office, Telephones, and Telegraphs.*—The various post office services have been well maintained, and the telephone system has been extended.

47. The telegraph cable service to Florida was abandoned some years ago, owing to the difficulty of keeping the cable in repair, and the wireless service then instituted has proved a complete success. The service now comprises a central station of five kilowatts power at N au, and seven stations of one-half or one kilowatt power at v. ous out islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without a single interruption, and has handled a considerable amount of traffic, as many as 200 messages being exchanged in one day with a station in Florida.

A. C. BURNS,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,
30th April, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	1922
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	,,
1176	Basutoland	1922–1923
1177	St. Vincent	,,
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922
1179	Mauritius	1922–1923
1180	Swaziland	1922
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1241.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923-24 see No. 1202.)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1925.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1241.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.*

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, "cays," and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and to the north of Cuba. It is said that there are about seven hundred islands and "cays," and over two thousand rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles, or one half the size of Wales. Some twenty-five of the islands are inhabited, the principal being Abaco, Acklins, Andros, the Biminis, Cat Island (or San Salvador), Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama, Harbour Island, Inagua, Long Cay, Long Island, New Providence, Ragged Island, Rum Cay, and Watling's Island.

2. New Providence, though not one of the larger islands, is easily the most important, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and nearly a quarter of the total population of the Colony. Harbour Island was the first island settled by the adventurers who laid the foundations of the present Colony. Watling's Island (called, by Columbus, San Salvador) was the first land seen in the New World by the great explorer.

3. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow and low-lying, and, except in the cases of Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama, not well wooded. There are no mountains and very few hills. In spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture that is not easily forgotten.

4. The population of the Colony is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves, but with probably a larger proportion of whites than in any other West Indian colony. During the winter months the islands, especially New Providence, are the resort of a large number of American tourists.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622-10].

5. When the Bahamas were first discovered, in 1492, they were inhabited by Caribs, who were soon removed to Cuba by the Spaniards to work in the mines. The islands were visited at an early date by the settlers of Bermuda, and in 1647 the Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands. The Bahamas had already been included, as early as 1629, in a Royal grant, but the company now received them in a grant from Parliament, while a third grant was made by Charles the Second in 1670 vesting the islands in six of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. In 1717 the Lords Proprietors surrendered their rights to the Crown.

6. From a very early date the infant Colony was harassed by the Spaniards, who, on several occasions, sacked the settlements and drove out the inhabitants. The worst of these visitations occurred in 1684 and 1703, but on each occasion the undaunted colonists returned as soon as they could and patiently built up again the work which had been destroyed. The Colony was surrendered to a fleet of the American rebels in 1776, and again to the Spaniards in 1781, but was speedily retaken by a British force.

II.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

7. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, aided by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Receiver-General are members *ex officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the legislature.

8. The Legislative Council consists generally of nine members nominated by the Crown. The House of Assembly is composed of twenty-nine members, elected for fifteen districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property of the value of £200. The out islands seldom return a member of their own community, their twenty-one representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5, or the occupation of houses of the rental value of £2 8s. 0d. in New Providence, or half that amount in the out islands. At the last election there were 14,551 registered electors, which was over 27 per cent. of the population. Women have not the vote. There will be a general election in 1925.

9. Even before the Royal Grant of 1670 the settlers had evolved for themselves a form of government which included an elective House of Assembly, and the constitution then formed has lasted with little modification to the present day. The inhabitants are naturally proud of the constitution, which they have been able to preserve in spite of all vicissitudes, and it has been the means of preserving amongst them an intense local patriotism and a keen interest in the administration of the Colony.

(17056) Wt. 24748/1749 750 3/25 Harrow G.94

10. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various islands, and the receipts from the sale and leases of these Crown lands (£2,684 in 1924) are placed to the credit of a special fund, which is administered by the Governor, under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council, and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and, by voting sums to a number of Boards, composed largely of members of the Legislature, the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

11. The Colony had a small but representative exhibit at the British Empire Exhibition during 1924.

12. The lack of remunerative industries in the out islands has in the past caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being gradually depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force during the year, has put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population, and although it is likely to cause some personal hardship at first there can be little doubt that the Colony as a whole will benefit, especially if the people turn to agriculture for a livelihood.

13. The general health of the community has been good. Towards the end of the year investigations were being made by an expert as to the possibility of establishing in Nassau a pipe-borne water supply and a sewage system, both of which are very necessary.

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

14. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1919–20	204,296	108,939
1920–21	254,019	269,495
1921–22	470,987	267,402
1922–23	852,573	377,164
1923–24	553,375	452,044

15. The revenue in 1913–14 was £100,753, and in 1918–19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current financial year (1924–25) is £387,216, and it is probable that this amount will be realised.

16. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1924, of £758,576. Of this sum about £383,000 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £445,000 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company, and the Golf Course Company. The Public Debt at the same date amounted to £20,219.

17. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony, but there is a large quantity of United States currency and British currency notes in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations—20s., 10s., and 4s.—and £60,000 worth of these notes are now in circulation.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

18. *Trade.*—The approximate total value of the trade of the Bahamas during the year 1924 was as follows :—

	£
Imports	1,584,000
Exports	626,000
Total (excluding specie)	£2,210,000

a decrease of about £1,732,000 on the trade of the preceding year. This decrease was due almost entirely to a falling off in the spirits trade.

19. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin was as follows :—

	£
United States of America	748,000
Great Britain	507,000
Canada	173,000

20. The values of the principal classes of articles imported during 1924 were as follows :—

	£
Spirits	624,000
Wines	29,000
Cordials and liqueurs	6,000
Malt	33,000
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	22,000
Foodstuffs	308,000

21. The values of the principal articles of local produce were as follows :—

	£
Pineapples, preserved	3,702
Tomatoes, raw	37,381
Salt	492
Sisal hemp...	37,861
Timber	36,215
Shells	268
Sponge	131,618

The total export of local produce was valued at £274,327 against £352,024 of re-exports, principally spirits. The value of spirits re-exported was less by £1,200,000 than during 1923.

22. *Agriculture.*—The principal agricultural products of the Bahamas are tomatoes, pineapples and sisal hemp. The first is a comparatively new industry, but is making considerable progress, and employs a large amount of labour. Pineapples are not doing so well. The price of sisal has been fairly satisfactory and a fair amount was exported during the year. Experiments are now being made with a small portable machine for cleaning the sisal and it is possible, if the machine is a success, that the agricultural problems of the out islands will, to a certain degree, be solved. The citrus trees which were destroyed by fly some years ago have not yet been replaced.

23. *Land.*—The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 587 square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp, rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

24. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1924, seventy-four Crown Land Grants were issued varying in size from small lots of less than one acre in settlements, to a tract of 1,800 acres for agricultural purposes, the total area granted in 1924 being 2,710 acres.

25. The island of New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, is situated, has developed as a tourist resort, in consequence of which the value of land has greatly increased. Here the Crown owns only some barren land on which pine trees grow, with a few very limited areas fit for cultivation. On the outer islands of the group where vacant Crown land still exists, the rental charged for agricultural lands is at the rate of 1s. 6d. per acre. Similar land when improved by the tenant would be sold for 25s. an acre.

V.—INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

26. *Forestry.*—This Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing almost side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine barren." The pine trees are suitable

for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

27. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignumvitæ and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as " horseflesh " is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madeira and Cedar. Cascarilla bark of an excellent quality grows wild and is exported when the market price is favourable.

28. *Salt.*—A small supply of salt is won from the ponds in some of the out islands.

29. *Fisheries.*—There are quantities of excellent fish in the waters of the Colony, but there is no fishing except for local consumption. There was formerly some trade in bêche-de-mer, which was exported to China, but this trade has practically disappeared. Turtle shell is exported, and there is a fairly large trade in conch shells; the cameo of commerce is manufactured from the lip of this shell.

30. Perhaps the principal industry of the Colony is sponging. Sponges are found in great quantities in all shallow waters of the Bahamas, especially around the islands of Andros, Abaco, Exuma, Acklins, and Eleuthera. A large number of small vessels is employed on this work, the sponges being hooked up from the bottom by the crews of these vessels. Sponges are being planted in several localities, and extensive experiments are being carried out by an expert sent out by the Imperial Government.

VI.—BANKS.

31. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch at Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office department.

VII.—LEGISLATION.

32. The Hotel Loan Act, 1924, and the Hotel Act, 1924, authorise the Government to raise a sum of £150,000 by debentures bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and to lend the money so raised at 3 per cent. interest to a locally-formed Company for the erection of a new hotel.

33. The Penal Code, 1924, and the Criminal Procedure Act, 1924 (which have not yet been brought into force) consolidate and amend the statute law of the Colony dealing with criminal offences and procedure.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

34. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided by Government. Secondary education is provided in schools under the control of various religious bodies.

35. In 1923–24 the sum of £20,000 was expended from public funds on education, under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

36. In New Providence, the education to be obtained in the schools is fairly satisfactory, but in the out islands, owing to the difficulty of providing a school for each of the scattered communities, and the limited number of efficient teachers, the education available leaves a great deal to be desired.

IX.—CLIMATE.

37. The climate of the Bahamas, especially in the winter months, is one of the finest in the world, and is, probably, the Colony's greatest asset. From November to May the temperature averages 70° Fahrenheit, there is little rain, and cool breezes prevail. The lowest recorded temperature (in January, 1905) is 51·5°.

38. The rainy months are May, June, September and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. The average annual rainfall for the last nineteen years was forty-six inches.

39. The islands lie within the hurricane belt, but serious hurricanes are of rare occurrence, only four having occurred in the last sixty years.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

40. *Harbours.*—With the view of converting Nassau Harbour into a deep water port an order was placed in January, 1923, with Messrs. Lobnitz, of Renfrew, for the construction of a dipper dredger, and a contract was given to an American dredging company for the removal of all sand in the main channel and mooring basin, so that, on arrival, the Government dredger could commence work on the remaining rock. Dredging was begun by the company in April and finished in August, 1923, 800,000 cubic yards of sand being removed. Two cross channels were cut leading from the main channel into the northern portion of the harbour, where a deeper area existed which had hitherto been difficult of access. Work was then begun by the Government dredger, and during the year a total quantity of 273,362 cubic yards of rock has been removed, leaving only 176,738 cubic yards to complete the channel. Almost the whole of this lies on the bar which has been cut down to a depth of twenty-seven feet. The widening out of this cut to upwards of four hundred feet will probably be finished during 1925, and the channel will then be ready for use. The question of the construction of a wharf is at present under consideration.

41. *Shipping.*—In 1924, 1,054 steamers and 111 sailing vessels, of a total of 612,000 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England, via Bermuda, by the steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and a fortnightly service during the summer, from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line, which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica, and British Honduras; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail and the Ward Lines also call at Nassau.

42. Communication with the out islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but owing to the class of boat employed the voyages are uncomfortable and unreliable.

43. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade, and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

44. *Roads.*—In the out islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are little more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there is a considerable number of motors and carriages, and there are roads running around and across the island. Owing to the heavy traffic the roads are not in very good condition, but steps are now being taken to improve them.

45. *Post Office, Telephones, and Telegraphs.*—The various post office services have been well maintained, and the telephone system has been extended.

46. The telegraph cable service to Florida was abandoned some years ago, owing to the difficulty of keeping the cable in repair, and the wireless service then instituted has proved a complete success. The service now comprises a central station of five kilowatts power at Nassau, and seven stations of one-half or one kilowatt power at various out islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without a single interruption, and has handled a considerable amount of traffic, as many as 200 messages being exchanged in one day with a station in Florida.

A. C. BURNS,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,
8th January, 1925.

Colonial Reports, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1215	British Honduras	1923
1216	New Hebrides	,,
1217	Gibraltar	,,
1218	Jamaica	,,
1219	Sierra Leone	,,
1220	Uganda	,,
1221	Grenada	,,
1222	British Guiana	,,
1223	St. Vincent	,,
1224	St. Helena	,,
1225	Barbados	1923–1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1228	Hongkong	,,
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923–1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	,,
1235	Straits Settlements	,,
1236	Seychelles	,,
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923–1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1240	St. Lucia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1285.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Report for 1923–24 see No. 1202 (price 6d.) and for Report for 1924 see No. 1241 (price 6d.))

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1926.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1285.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925.*

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, "cays," and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great coral banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This bank contains only two large islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of these two islands.

3. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-west and North-east Providence Channels, is the Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, which extends along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami, in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros, which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draft. East of Andros is New Providence which, although by no means the largest, is easily the most important of the islands, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores; on Harbour Island the first settlement was made by the Adventurers who laid the foundations of the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island (officially known as San Salvador), Watlings (which is now generally accepted as the first Island seen by Columbus in the New World and called by him San Salvador), Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island and Long Cay), Mayaguana and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622–10].

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow and low lying. The ground is very rocky but in among the honeycomb rock there are pockets of rich and fertile earth. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used and a cultivated " field " in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture which is not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population of each of the principal islands of the group :—

Island or Group.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last census (1921).*
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Biminis	8	610
Eleuthera and Harbour Island	166	7,547
Exuma and cays ...	100	3,730
Grand Bahama... ...	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Island)	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence ...	58	12,975
Ragged Island group ...	5	366
Rum Cay...	29	338
San Salvador (Cat Island)...	160	4,273
Watlings (the San Salvador of Columbus) ...	60	686
	4,396	53,003

(21153) Wt.24859/1857 750 4/26 Harrow G.94

8. The total population is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, this being due in the first place to the better climate and in the second place to the fact that after the War of American Independence a number of soldiers were settled in the Bahamas.

9. When the Bahamas were first discovered in 1492 they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the original inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonise the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. In 1647 a Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third Grant was made by Charles II, vesting the Islands in six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors received very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war, and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was sent to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers who at this time were the real rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was " roasted on a spit." In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor who arrived in 1704 found New Providence totally uninhabited and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718 and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their former

occupation. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken but the place was evacuated in a few days. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change, and the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, were used as a depot for the vessels which were running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship from the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

12. In 1919 there was a sudden increase in the revenue of the Colony, due to large imports of spirits, which reached a record in 1922 and has since gradually declined.

13. At the present time the Bahamas are sharing in the land boom which has swept over Florida. Property in New Providence and in the out islands is changing hands at ever increasing figures and large tracts of Crown land which have lain derelict for centuries are being bought up by American and local speculators. An Anglo-American Corporation, the Grand Bahama Development Company, is hoping to arrange to lease for 99 years the whole of the Crown land on Grand Bahama, an area of some 430 square miles. This Company has sought legislative authority to construct a harbour at the west end of the island, which is about 70 miles from Palm Beach in Florida, and the Company proposes to build roads and develop the island on very extensive lines. The Crown will retain the right to cancel the proposed lease if the island is used at any time as a base for " bootleggers." Little Abaco, and a number of cays to the north of it, have been sold to another Company, who propose to erect a hotel on Little Abaco and bungalows on the adjoining cays. Thomas Peters and Company, of Miami, Florida, have also received a grant of all the Crown land on North and South Bimini; this Company already owns a hotel on North Bimini and proposes to dredge the harbour and improve the islands for residential purposes. In New Providence large blocks of Crown land have been acquired by locally formed Companies who are endeavouring to develop the south side of the island, which, on account of its swampy character, has up to the present been almost neglected, and in other parts of the island large tracts of land have been acquired and roads have been built by private developers.

14. Nassau has been for a long time a regular winter resort for American and Canadian tourists and within the last few years English tourists have also visited the Islands in the winter season. There is no doubt that a large increase in the number of winter visitors is to be looked for, partly as a result of advertising and partly from the overflow from Florida, which, within recent years, has attracted an ever increasing number of residents from the more northern States of America.

15. Owing to the importance of the tourist trade the Government has always encouraged the construction of hotels and the provision of amenities for winter visitors. In 1860 the Royal Victoria Hotel was built from Government funds and after being leased for some years was later disposed of to private interests. When the Colonial Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1922 the Government advanced £430,000 to a private Company to assist in the building of a New Colonial Hotel. Again in 1925 the Government has advanced £150,000 to a local Company to build a hotel on the Waterloo site, east of Nassau. Government assistance has also been given to a Golf Course Company which has constructed an excellent 18 hole golf course not far from the city.

II.—Constitution and Government.

16. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

17. "The Eleutherian Adventurers," who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them the idea of representative Government which already existed in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729 when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has a negative voice in legislation. He is assisted by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Receiver-General are members *ex officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

18. The Legislative Council consists of nine members nominated by the Crown. It has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) and to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills). It may throw out altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a Bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

19. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members, elected for 15 districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The out islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8*s*. 0*d*. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The life of the House is seven years unless previously dissolved by the Governor.

20. At the General Election which took place in May and June 1925, 18 out of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections :—

Constituency.	No. of seats.	No. of unsuccessful candidates.	No. of votes cast for elected candidates.	No. of votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.	Population at 1921 Census.
New Providence	2	—	195	—	3,500
(South) (*a*)	—	—	175	—	(approx.)
	—	1	—	119	—
New Providence	2	—	252	—	2,000
East (*a*)	—	—	241	184	(approx.)
	—	2	—	142	—
Harbour Island (*b*)	3	—	339	—	—
	—	—	337	—	—
(electoral dis-	—	—	333	—	—
trict.)	—	1	—	183	2,773
Long Island (*a*)	2	—	305	—	—
	—	—	257	—	5,025
(with Ragged	—	1	—	115	—
Island)					
Crooked Island	1	—	93	—	—
(with Long Cay	—	—	—	—	3,458
& Acklins)	—	1	—	78	—
Inagua	1	—	31	—	937
	—	1	—	29	—

(*a*) Each elector had two votes.
(*b*) Each elector had three votes.

21. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various Islands and the receipts from the sale and leases of these Crown lands are placed to the credit of a special fund which is administered by the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £2,684 in 1924 and to over £13,000 in 1925. In view of recent transactions and the increasing demand for land in the Colony it is probable that these receipts will be considerably increased in the next few years.

22. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council, and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and, by voting sums to a number of Boards, composed largely of members of the Legislature, the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

III.—General Observations.

23. The Colony had a small but representative exhibit at the British Empire Exhibition during 1925.

24. The lack of remunerative industries in the out islands has in the past caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being gradually depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force during 1924, put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population and were it not for the large amount of money placed in circulation by real estate developers and builders there is little doubt that considerable hardship would have been caused. Owing to the uncompromising nature of the soil and the difficulty of transporting their crops to Nassau there is very little money to be made by agriculturists in the out islands, which must continue to be depopulated until better transportation facilities are provided.

25. The general health of the community during the past year has been good. No serious epidemic has occurred other than the annual summer outbreak of typhoid, which is practically endemic; fortunately it is a very mild type (one of the paratyphoid group) with an extremely low mortality rate. Malaria is not common, the *Anopheles* mosquito being rarely found in Nassau, though they are fairly abundant elsewhere.

26. There is, at present, no municipal system of sewerage or water supply in Nassau, each better class house possessing its own septic tanks and well or rain-water tank. There are, however, good prospects of a pipe-borne water supply and sewage system being inaugurated shortly, which will revolutionise the sanitation of Nassau. Modern sanitation in the out islands does not exist and conditions there are very primitive.

IV.—Government Finances.

27. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1920–21	254,019	269,495
1921–22	470,987	267,402
1922–23	852,573	377,164
1923–24	553,375	452,044
1924–25	414,314	409,970

The Revenue in 1913–14 was £100,753, and in 1918–19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current year (1925–26) is £405,344, and it is probable that this amount will be exceeded.

28. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1925, of £843,817. Of this sum about £383,000 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £443,346 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company and the Golf Course Company. Within the last few months £150,000 has been lent to the Waterloo Hotel Company at 4 per cent.

29. The Public Debt now amounts to £153,340 being an increase of £135,480 since last March. The latter sum has been raised locally to provide part of the funds for the loan to the Waterloo Hotel Company; it bears interest at 5 per cent. Provision has been made for a sinking fund to pay off the Debt.

30. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony, but there is a large quantity of United States currency and British currency notes in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations—20*s*., 10*s*., and 4*s*.—and £60,000 worth of these notes are now in circulation.

V.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

Trade.

31. The general trade of the Colony during the past year has increased considerably owing largely to the boom in real estate which has caused a considerable demand for labour and an improvement in wages. Imports have increased from the previous year by some £207,000, and although the total exports have decreased by £145,000 the export of local produce has increased by £44,000 in spite of the fact that the tomato crop was very late, owing to the lateness of the rains and that the bulk of the tomato shipments will be made in January instead of November and December as usual. Re-exports have declined by £188,000 as compared with 1924.

32. The approximate total value of the trade during the year 1925 was as follows :—

	£
Imports	1,761,000
Exports	481,000
Total (excluding specie)	£2,242,000

33. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin was as follows :—

	£
United States of America	785,000
Great Britain	561,000
Canada	240,000

The values of the principal classes of articles imported during 1925 were as follows :—

	£
Spirits	637,000
Wines	38,000
Cordials and Liqueurs	9,000
Malt	59,000
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes ...	22,000
Foodstuffs	324,000

34. The values of the principal articles of local produce exported were as follows :—

	£
Bark and Siftings	4,823
Tomatoes, raw	16,710
Sisal hemp	52,137
Timber	61,576
Shells (chiefly Turtle shell) ...	23,768
Sponge	146,821
	305,835

AGRICULTURE.

35. The principal agricultural products of the Bahamas are pineapples, tomatoes and sisal hemp. Pineapples at one time were exported in large numbers but are not doing well at present. The tomato industry, which is a comparatively new one, is making considerable progress and employs a large amount of labour; owing to the land boom it is difficult to obtain suitable acreage in New Providence for the growing of tomatoes which are now cultivated chiefly in the Out Islands. The sisal industry is a valuable stand-by for the people.

36. Market gardening is steadily increasing in New Providence and the neighbouring islands, but production does not keep pace with the growing demand, and a quantity of vegetables is still imported from the United States. Owing to increased

wages the labouring class is now in a position to buy vegetables, and the large number of visitors who patronise the hotels, boarding houses and restaurants keep up a steady demand.

37. The land boom, and the developments that are taking place on every side, have drawn off much of the agricultural labour. Ordinary unskilled labour finds ready employment at 5/- and 6/- a day, while anyone who can handle a trowel or a saw gets 20/- a day. In these circumstances agriculture is not having a fair chance.

38. Some years ago citrus fruit was grown in the Bahamas in great quantities but nearly all the trees have been destroyed by the blue-gray fly.

Land.

39. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 595 square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 430 square miles of Grand Bahama which are being leased. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp, rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

40. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1925, fifty-one Crown Land Grants have been issued for a total area of 5,161 acres, and several large transactions referred to above have not yet been completed.

41. The value of all land has considerably increased, especially on the island of New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, stands. The vacant Crown Land on New Providence is of little value for agriculture, but the island has developed so rapidly as a tourist resort that the land is greatly in demand.

42. Crown Land in New Providence is sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase if an island is permanently improved. On the larger islands, if extensive tracts are sold, special terms are arranged.

VI.—Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

Forestry.

43. The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine-barren." The pine trees are

suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

44. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignumvitae and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as " horseflesh " is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madeira and Cedar.

45. There has been a heavy demand at high prices, during the year, for Cascarilla Bark, 773 cwts. being exported. The shrub grows wild on the southern islands of the group, the best quality being found on Atwood's Cay. The experimental plots at Acklins and Crooked Island, now two years old, are very promising, and it is hoped to increase the supply by the cultivation of large acreages.

Salt.

46. A small supply of salt is won from the ponds in some of the out islands.

Fisheries.

47. There are quantities of excellent fish in the waters of the Colony, but there is no fishing except for local consumption. There was formerly some trade in beche-de-mer, which was exported to China, but this trade has practically disappeared. Turtle Shell is exported, and there is a fairly large trade in conch shells; the cameo of commerce is manufactured from the lip of this shell.

48. Perhaps the principal industry of the Colony is sponging. Sponges are found in great quantities in all shallow waters of the Bahamas, especially around the islands of Andros, Abaco, Exuma, Acklins, and Eleuthera. A large number of small vessels is employed on this work, the sponges being hooked up from the bottom by the crews of these vessels. Sponges are being planted in several localities, and extensive experiments have been carried out by an expert sent out by the Imperial Government.

VII.—Banks.

49. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch at Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office Department.

VIII.—Legislation.

50. The Customs Formalities Regulation Act, 1925, brings the Customs formalities required in the Colony into line with those in the contracting states to the International Convention relating to the simplification of Customs Formalities signed at Geneva on the 3rd November, 1923.

51. By the Statute Law Revision Act, 1925 (which cannot be brought into force before 1st April, 1926) many Acts temporary in duration were made permanent and numerous Acts at present on the Statute Books, which were either superfluous, spent, ceasing to be in force or unnecessary by lapse of time or otherwise were repealed. This Act has been passed with a view of assisting the revision of the Statute Law of the Colony which is now being undertaken by Commissioners appointed for that purpose. The last occasion on which the laws of the Colony were in any way revised was the compilation of the laws in 1899 which, however, was not a revision or consolidation but merely a reprint of the existing laws with the sections which had been repealed omitted.

IX.—Education.

52. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided free by Government. In 1924-25 a sum of £15,922 was expended from public funds on primary education, under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

53. There are now seven Government and Grant-in-aid primary schools in New Providence (population 13,000) and 99 in the out islands (population 40,000). At first sight the number of schools seems adequate, but it must be remembered that there are so many islands, and the settlements on these islands are so scattered, that a great many children are not within reach of a school. Many of the children that do attend have to walk long distances, in great heat and along bad roads, to get to their schools; to at least one school children come in boats, managed by themselves, from neighbouring " cays."

54. The chief handicap to education, however, is the shortage of efficient teachers. The lonely life on the out islands, and the comparatively small salary, does not attract the best type of man, and probably not half of the teachers in the out islands could be described as competent. There are very few assistant teachers and in a large school the teacher is forced to depend on the help given him by " monitors," who, in many cases, are almost as ignorant as the pupils they try to teach. The Government is alive to the seriousness of the situation, and, during the past year, a Government High School has been started in Nassau, to train teachers and to provide a secondary education for those who can afford to pay the small fees charged.

55. Apart from this newly-started school, secondary education is in the hands of the various religious bodies, but up to the present even secondary education has not reached a very high standard.

X.—Climate.

56. The climate of the Bahamas, especially in the winter months, is one of the finest in the world, and is probably the Colony's greatest asset. From November to May the temperature averages 70° Fahrenheit; there is little rain, and cool breezes prevail. The lowest recorded temperature (in January, 1905) is 51·5°.

57. The rainy months are May, June, September and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. The average annual rainfall for the last nineteen years was forty-six inches.

58. The islands lie within the hurricane belt, but serious hurricanes are of rare occurrence, only four having occurred in the last sixty years.

XI.—Communications.

Harbours.

59. The question of converting Nassau Harbour into a deep water port has been discussed for a great many years, and in 1923, when the finances of the Colony warranted the expenditure, it was determined to make a start. A contract was given to an American dredging company for the removal of all sand in the mooring basin and channel, and 800,000 cubic yards were removed in four months. In the meantime the Government had ordered from Scotland a dipper dredger to deal with the rock and work was begun with this dredger in 1924 and continued throughout the past year. The bar has been cut down to a depth of 27 feet, and a channel, 250 feet wide and 25 feet deep, has been cut from the bar to the mooring and turning basin, which is 600 feet square and 25 feet deep. The dredging is now nearly finished and the question of the construction of a wharf is now under consideration.

60. The construction by private enterprise of deep water harbours at the west end of Grand Bahama and at Bimini is also being considered.

Shipping.

61. In 1925, 1,244 steamers and 137 sailing vessels, of a total of 642,000 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England, via Bermuda, by the steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and a fortnightly service during the summer, from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica and British

Honduras; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail and the Ward Lines also call at Nassau.

62. The arrival of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Liner "Arcadian" from the United Kingdom on the 19th November, with 295 excursionists on board is a new departure which it is hoped will be continued and serve to bring the Bahamas into closer touch with the Mother Country.

63. Communication with the out islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but owing to the class of boat employed the voyages are uncomfortable and unreliable.

64. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade, and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

Roads.

65. In the out islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are little more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, 636 motor vehicles being licensed. Steps are now being taken to improve the roads.

Post Office, Telephones, and Telegraphs.

66. The various post office services have been well maintained, and the telephone system has been extended.

67. The telegraph cable service to Florida was abandoned some years ago, owing to the difficulties of keeping the cable in repair, and the wireless service then instituted has proved a complete success. The service now comprises a central station of five kilowatts power at Nassau and eight stations of one half or one kilowatt power at various out islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without a single interruption, and has handled a considerable amount of traffic, as many as 320 messages being exchanged in one day with a station in Florida.

68. Two more wireless stations are being erected on the out islands and experiments are being conducted with small wireless plants, capable of receiving and sending messages over short distances, with a view to connecting outlying cays and settlements with the larger stations.

A. C. BURNS,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau.
8th January, 1926.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes for the Colonial Office the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1923–24, No. 1252 .. .. 1s. 6d.
BAHAMAS, 1924, No. 1241 .. .. 6d.
BARBADOS, 1924–25, No. 1274 .. .. 9d.
BASUTOLAND, 1924, No. 1244 .. .. 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1924–25, No. 1269 .. .. 9d.
BERMUDA, 1924, No. 1279 .. .. 9d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1924, No. 1270 .. 9d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1924, No. 1277 9d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1922–23, No. 1189 .. 3d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1924, No. 1250 .. 1s.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1924, No. 1262 .. .. 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 .. .. .. 5s.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT for the period April 1st, 1914, to March 31st, 1923, No. 1230 .. .. 2s. 6d.
CYPRUS, 1924, No. 1253 .. .. .. 1s. 9d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1924, No. 1278 9d.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1924, No. 1256 .. .. 1s. 6d.
FIJI, 1924, No. 1259 .. .. .. 1s. 3d.
GAMBIA, 1924, No. 1249 .. .. .. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1924, No. 1266 .. .. 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923–24, No. 1246 .. .. 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1923–24, No. 1255 .. 2s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924–25, No. 1284 .. .. 1s.
GRENADA, 1924, No. 1263 .. .. 6d.
HONGKONG, 1923, No. 1228 .. .. 1s 6d.
JAMAICA, 1924, No. 1276 .. .. 1s. 3d.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1924, No. 1282 .. .. 1s.
LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1924–25, No. 1283 1s.
MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 .. .. 9d.
NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
NIGERIA, 1924, No. 1245 .. .. .. 1s.
NYASALAND, 1924, No. 1257 .. .. 6d.
ST. HELENA, 1924, No. 1251 .. .. 6d.
ST. LUCIA, 1924, No. 1268 .. .. 6d.
ST. VINCENT, 1924, No. 1267 .. .. 6d.
SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272 .. .. 3d.
SIERRA LEONE, 1924, No. 1275 .. 1s. 3d.
SOMALILAND, 1924, No. 1271 .. .. 6d.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1924, No. 1264 .. .. 2s.
SWAZILAND, 1924, No. 1261 .. .. 6d.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1923–24, No. 1237 .. .. 3d.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1924, No. 1260 1s. 6d.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1924, No. 1258 .. .. 6d.
UGANDA, 1924, No. 1280 .. .. .. 6d.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1924, No. 1265 .. .. 6s.
WEI HAI WEI, 1924, No. 1248 .. .. 6d.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1924, No. 1254 .. .. 6d.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1924 (Colonial, No. 16) .. .. 2s. 9d.
IRAQ, April 1923–Dec. 1924 (Colonial, No. 13) .. .. 7s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1924 (Colonial, No. 12) .. 2s. 3d.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1924. Appendices to the Report (Colonial No. 17) .. .. 1s.
TANGANYIKA, 1924 (Colonial, No. 11) .. .. 3s.
TOGOLAND, 1924 (Colonial No. 14) .. .. 3s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920–25 (Colonial No. 15) .. 2s.

All prices are net. Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc., e.g.:—

REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF BAHAMAS, 1921 .. 2s.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1330.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1241 and for Report for 1925 see No. 1285 (price 6d. each).)

LONDON.
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent. Cardiff:
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast:
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 9*d*. Net.

No. 1330.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.*

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, " cays " and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great coral banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This Bank contains only two large islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of these two islands.

3. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-west and North-east Providence Channels is the Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, which extends along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami, in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros, which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draught. East of Andros is New Providence which, although by no means the largest, is easily the most important of the islands, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores; on Harbour Island the first settlement was made by the Adventurers, who laid the foundations of the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island, San Salvador (or Watlings), the first landfall of Columbus in the New World, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island and Long Cay), Mayaguana and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 849 [C. 7622–10].

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow and low lying. The ground is very rocky but in among the honeycomb rock there are pockets of rich and fertile earth. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used, and a cultivated " field " in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills, but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture which is not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island or Group.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last census* (1921).
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Bimini	8	610
Eleuthera and Harbour Island	166	7,547
Exuma and cays ...	100	3,730
Grand Bahama... ...	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence ...	58	12,975
Ragged Island group ...	5	366
Rum Cay...	29	338
Cat Island	160	4,273
San Salvador or Watlings	60	686
	4,396	53,003

(26197) Wt. 26162/1739 750 4/27 Harrow G. 94 A 2

8. The total population is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, this being due in the first place to the better climate and in the second place to the fact that after the War of American Independence a number of soldiers were settled in the Bahamas.

9. When the Bahamas were first discovered in 1492 they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the original inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonise the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. In 1647 a Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third Grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors received very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war, and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was sent to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers who at this time were the real rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was "roasted on a spit." In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the head-quarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau

in 1718 and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their former occupation. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken but the place was evacuated in a few days. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change, and the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, were used as a depot for the vessels which were running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship from the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

12. In 1919 there was a sudden increase in the revenue of the Colony, due to large imports of spirits, which reached a record in 1922 and has since gradually declined.

13. The Bahamas has shared in the depreciation of land values experienced in Florida during the past year, by the collapse of the real estate " boom," and although prices of property have not returned to normal, there is very little activity in real estate at present. No doubt the tourists will still continue to acquire sites for their winter homes in the Bahamas, but it seems improbable that there will be any return to the abnormal activities previously experienced in the sale of real estate.

14. Owing to its many natural facilities for the tourist traffic, Nassau, each year, attracts an ever increasing number of winter visitors during the Season, which is from the end of December to the beginning of April. The Bahamas can boast of an unsurpassed winter climate, and the tourists who visit the Colony have swimming, fishing, yachting, sight-seeing, tennis, golf, and dancing to choose from in the many forms of amusement.

15. Consequent on the growing demand for greater hotel accommodation, the Hotel Fort Montagu has just been completed by a local company, with the assistance of a loan of £220,000 from the Government, and was opened to visitors on the 21st December, 1926.

II.—Constitution and Government.

16. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

17. "The Eleutherian Adventurers," who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them the idea of representative Government which already existed in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729 when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has a negative voice in legislation. He is assisted by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Receiver-General are members ex officio, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature, Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

18. The Legislative Council consists of nine members nominated by the Crown. It has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) and to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills). It may throw out altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a Bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

19. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members, elected for 15 districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8*s*. 0*d*. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The life of the House is seven years unless previously dissolved by the Governor.

20. At the General Election which took place in May and June, 1925, 18 and of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections :—

Constituency.	No. of seats.	No. of unsuccessful candidates.	No. of votes cast for elected candidates.	No. of votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.	Population at 1921 Census.
New Providence ..	2	—	195	—	3,500
(South) (*a*) ..	—	—	175	—	(approx.)
	—	1	—	119	—
New Providence ..	2	—	252	—	2,000
(East) (*a*) ..	—	—	241	184	(approx.)
	—	2	—	142	—
Harbour Island (*b*) ..	3	—	339	—	—
..	—	—	337	—	—
(electoral dis- ..	—	—	333	—	—
trict.)	—	1	—	183	2,773
Long Island (*a*) ..	2	—	305	—	—
..	—	—	257	—	5,025
(with Ragged ..	—	1	—	115	—
Island)					
Crooked Island ..	1	—	93	—	—
(with Long Cay ..	—	—	—	—	3,458
& Acklin's) ..	—	1	—	78	—
Inagua ..	1	—	31	—	937
	—	1	—	29	—

(*a*) Each elector had two votes.
(*b*) Each elector had three votes.

21. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various islands and the receipts from the sale and leases of these Crown lands are placed to the credit of a special fund which is administered by the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £9,722 in 1925, and to over £14,203 in 1926.

22. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council, and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and, by voting sums to a number of Boards, composed largely of members of the Legislature, the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

III.—General Observations.

23. The Colony was represented at the West Indian Conference which was held in London in May, 1926, and the Legislature is being invited to pass the necessary legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference, so far as the Bahamas is concerned.

24. The lack of remunerative industries in the Out Islands has in the past caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being gradually depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force during 1924, put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population and were it not for the large amount of money placed in circulation by real estate developers and builders there is little doubt that considerable hardship would have been caused. Owing to the uncompromising nature of the soil and the difficulty of transporting their crops to Nassau there is very little money to be made by agriculturists in the Out Islands, which must continue to be depopulated until better transportation facilities are provided.

25. The general health of the community during the past year has been good. No serious epidemic has occurred other than the annual summer outbreak of typhoid, which is practically endemic; fortunately it is a very mild type (one of the paratyphoid group) with an extremely low mortality-rate. Malaria is not common, the *Anopheles* mosquito being rarely found in Nassau, though they are fairly abundant elsewhere. Pellagra has shown a greater incidence than in previous years; the reason for this is obscure.

26. A serious outbreak of smallpox was reported in Florida in January, 1926, and continued in epidemic form for several months, but owing to the prompt action taken by the health authorities at Nassau in having an embargo imposed against Florida, and urging immediate general vaccination, the Bahamas escaped a like fate. Only five cases occurred in the Colony, which were the outcome of the subjects having come into contact with persons and clothing arriving from Florida before the commencement of the embargo. These cases were immediately isolated, with the result that there was no further spread of the disease.

27. There is, at present, no municipal system of sewerage or water supply in Nassau, each better-class house possessing its own septic tanks and well or rain-water tank. There are, however, good prospects of a pipe-borne water supply and sewage system being inaugurated shortly, which will revolutionise the sanitation of Nassau. Legislation has been passed authorising the installation of a water supply system; a water authority has been appointed, and arrangements are being made to engage the services of a competent engineer from the United Kingdom to superintend the carrying out of the scheme. The water supply is a necessary preliminary to the sewage system.

HURRICANES.

28. The last hurricane experienced by the Bahamas was in 1919, but it was not regarded as a very serious one, and the popular conviction was growing that the Colony was outside the hurricane zone. The year 1926 has dispelled this idea, for it was the most disastrous year within living memory, and, it might almost be said, in the history of the Colony, there having occurred one hurricane on the 26th July, another on the 17th September, and a third on the 20th October. Practically every island in the Group felt the effects of one of the hurricanes, and the majority had the misfortune to be visited by the three.

29. As a result of these hurricanes, many lives were lost, thousands of buildings damaged or destroyed, crops absolutely ruined and many vessels wrecked. New Providence was cut off from the outside world and from the Out Islands of the Colony for several hours after each hurricane, owing to the Wireless Station having been put out of commission.

30. In some places practically whole settlements were washed away by the sea, and at one settlement the tide rose fifteen feet or more above the normal level. In another settlement only three out of the twenty-six dwellings withstood the storm, the remainder being either destroyed or seriously damaged. In New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, is situated, the damage to property was not so great as at the Out Islands, the reason for this being that a large proportion of the houses are built of stone and are better able to withstand hurricanes than those at most of the Out Islands, where the buildings occupied by the peasants are less substantial. Then, too, as the Bahamas has escaped a severe hurricane for so long, the people have become less careful in building their houses and have omitted to pin their buildings properly to the ground and to take other precautionary measures to render them proof against hurricanes.

31. In consequence of these three hurricanes thousands of people were left homeless and without food, which necessitated the Government providing relief in the way of provisions, building materials and employment on public works.

32. Immediately the July storm abated in New Providence, and before reports could be received from the Out Islands, the Government sent out relief boats with food to those settlements which it was thought—judging from the course the storm took—had suffered most, and the Commissioners of the various Districts were granted money for expenditure on works of public utility, in order to provide the needy with employment. When the second hurricane followed so closely on the heels of the first, the Government found it necessary to consider more adequate and effective means of rendering assistance to the Out Islands, and drew up a definite programme. To prevent persons from flocking into Nassau in search of work and help, and thus rendering relief by the Government more difficult, notices were posted up

in the Out Islands advising the people to remain at home, where the Government would assist them as promptly as possible, and warned them that if they came to Nassau they would not be helped by the Government.

33. The Commissioner of each District was authorised to issue free rations to, and to rebuild the homes of, widows and those persons who were unable to work, and to afford employment on public works to all those who were capable and desirous of working. Lime kilns were burnt at the expense of the Government, and the lime given to those who required it for repairing or rebuilding their houses. Lumber for small standardised houses was ordered from the lumber mills of the Bahamas Cuban Company at Norman's Castle, Abaco, and distributed among the settlements. Corn seed was issued free, and farmers were assisted in preparing their fields for sowing fresh crops. The Government also arranged for the building of boats in certain Districts in order to replace those that had been lost in the hurricanes and to afford employment.

34. The Legislature, which was called together just after the first hurricane, authorised the expenditure of a sum of £50,000 on hurricane relief, and, under the authority of this Act, loans were made to persons to enable them to repair or rebuild their houses, and by special authority of the Legislature loans were similarly made to assist shipping. The interest on these loans was fixed at 3 per cent. per annum, and the loans required to be repaid within a period of five years.

35. The sum of £50,000 voted will not be sufficient to cover the expenditure in connection with the three hurricanes, and consequently the Legislature is to be invited to pass a new Hurricane Relief Act to cover the estimated cost of reconstruction.

36. Apart from the loss of life and the immediate damage to property, the sponge and sisal industries have been temporarily crippled, and it will be some time before they return to normal, the former on account of the damage or destruction of a number of vessels of the sponging fleet, and the latter because of the destruction of the leaves of the sisal plant.

37. In spite of the severe losses and damages sustained from the three hurricanes, the Colony is quickly recovering from their effects, and at the time of writing this report advices are being received from the Out Islands stating that the new crops are about to be reaped, which will make the people independent of relief in the way of food, that a number of houses have been repaired and rebuilt, and that the Islands are recovering far more quickly than it was at first anticipated. In New Providence, within a few days after each hurricane, most of the outward traces were effaced; uprooted trees were soon removed and damaged houses restored, so that a casual visitor would have found it hard to believe that the Island had actually experienced a hurricane.

IV.—Government Finances.

38. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1921–22	470,987	267,402
1922–23	852,573	377,164
1923–24	553,375	452,044
1924–25	414,314	409,970
1925–26	502,202	374,126

39. The revenue in 1913–14 was £100,753, and in 1918–19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current year (1926–27) is £514,759, and it is probable that this amount will be exceeded.

40. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1926, of £966,203. Of this sum £382,875 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £443,346 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company and the Golf Course Company; and £150,000 to the Waterloo Hotel Company at 4 per cent.

41. The Public Debt now amounts to £151,123, a decrease of £2,207 since last March.

42. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony, but there is a large quantity of United States currency and British currency notes in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations—20*s*., 10*s*., and 4*s*.—and £100,000 worth of these notes are now in circulation.

V.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

Trade.

43. The general trade of the Colony was seriously affected during the latter half of the year by the three hurricanes which occurred in July, September and October, for although the imports showed an increase of £398,000 over the previous year, there was a decrease of £40,126 in the export of local produce.

44. The approximate total value of the trade during the year 1926 was as follows :—

	£
Imports	2,159,000
Exports	407,000
Total (excluding specie)	£2,566,000

45. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin was as follows :—

	£
United States of America ...	1,032,000
Great Britain	510,000
Canada	460,000

46. The values of the principal classes of articles imported during 1926 were as follows :—

	£
Spirits	730,000
Wines	22,000
Cordials and liqueurs	10,000
Malt	48,000
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes ...	25,000
Food-stuffs	406,000

47. The values of the principal articles of local produce exported were as follows :—

	£
Bark and siftings	2,039
Tomatoes, raw	26,516
Sisal hemp	40,493
Timber	48,958
Shells (chiefly turtle shell)... ...	12,469
Sponge	135,234
	£265,709

AGRICULTURE.

48. Pine-apples, tomatoes and sisal hemp are the chief agricultural products of the Bahamas. Years ago pine-apples were exported in great quantities, but, owing to the deterioration of the stock and the failure of the soil, very few are now grown. The tomato industry, which has only been introduced into the Bahamas during the last few years, is steadily growing and promises to replace that of the pine-apple. The sisal hemp, which is mostly cleaned by hand, is a great help to the Out Islands peasant and tides him over many hard times.

49. Citrus fruit used formerly to be grown in great quantities, but, owing to the invasion of the blue-gray fly, instead of exporting a great deal as previously, not enough is now produced to meet the local demand. An effort is being made to revive this industry.

LAND.

50. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 596½ square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 430 square miles of Grand Bahama which is being leased to the

Grand Bahama Mercantile and Development Company, Limited. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp, and rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

51. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1926 eighty-two Crown Land Grants have been issued for a total area of 655 acres.

52. The value of all land has considerably increased, especially on the Island of New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, stands. The vacant Crown Land on New Providence is of little value for agriculture, but the Island has developed so rapidly as a tourist resort that the land is greatly in demand.

53. Crown Land in New Providence is sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value, and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase if an island is permanently improved. On the larger islands, if extensive tracts are sold, special terms are arranged.

VI.—Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

Forestry.

54. The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine-barren." The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

55. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignum vitae and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as "horseflesh" is found. and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madeira and cedar.

56. There is a steady demand for cascarilla bark; 255 cwt. were exported during the year. The shrub grows wild on the southern islands of the Group, the best quality being found on Atwood's Cay. Experimental plots have been planted, and it is hoped to increase the supply by the cultivation of large acreages.

Salt.

57. A good supply of coarse salt known as " kitchen " salt is produced in ponds at Inagua, Rum Cay and Ragged Island, and a small quantity is exported.

Fisheries.

58. There are quantities of excellent fish in the waters of the Colony, but there is no fishing except for local consumption. There was formerly some trade in bêche-de-mer, which was exported to China, but this trade has practically disappeared. Turtle shell is exported, and there is a fairly large trade in conch shells; the cameo of commerce is manufactured from the lip of this shell.

59. Perhaps the principal industry of the Colony is sponging. Sponges are found in great quantities in all shallow waters of the Bahamas, especially around the islands of Andros, Abaco, Exuma, Acklin's and Eleuthera. A large number of small vessels is employed on this work, the sponges being hooked up from the bottom by the crews of these vessels. Sponges are being planted in several localities, and extensive experiments have been carried out by an expert sent out by the Imperial Government.

VII.—Banks.

60. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch at Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office Department.

VIII.—Legislation.

61. The Water Supply Act, 1926, provides for the inauguration of a water supply system for New Providence, and the Water Works Loan Act, 1926, authorises the raising of the necessary funds for carrying out the scheme.

62. Provision is made in the Secondary Education Act, 1926, for grants-in-aid to any school in the Colony which provides a secondary education, and which meets certain requirements based on the average attendance of pupils, on the number and qualifications of the teachers, and on the results of certain prescribed examinations.

63. The Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1926, is to enable the Bahamas to come into line with the other countries that have accepted the recommendations of the International Conference on Maritime Law held in Brussels in October, 1922, and October, 1923.

64. The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement Act, 1926, was passed to ratify and confirm the Canada-British West Indies-Bermuda-British Guiana-British Honduras Trade Agreement, 1925.

65. The Imperial Preference Act, 1926, is intended to give the Mother Country and any other part of the British Empire whose Customs tariff is on the whole as favourable to the Colony the same preference as is granted to Canada under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement Act, 1926.

IX.—Education.

66. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided free by the Government. In 1925–26 a sum of £21,278 was expended from public funds on primary education under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

67. There are now seven Government and Grant-in-aid primary schools in New Providence (population 13,000) and 100 in the Out Islands (population 40,000). At first sight the number of schools seems adequate, but it must be remembered that there are so many islands, and the settlements on these islands are so scattered, that a great many children are not within reach of a school. Many of the children that do attend have to walk long distances, in great heat and along bad roads, to get to their schools; to at least one school children come in boats, managed by themselves, from neighbouring " cays."

68. The chief handicap to education, however, is the shortage of efficient teachers. The lonely life on the Out Islands, and the comparatively small salary, does not attract the best type of man, and probably not half of the teachers in the Out Islands could be described as competent. There are very few assistant teachers and in a large school the teacher is forced to depend on the help given him by " monitors," who, in many cases, are almost as ignorant as the pupils they try to teach. The Government is alive to the seriousness of the situation, and, during the year 1925, a Government High School was started in Nassau to train teachers and to provide a secondary education for those who can afford to pay the small fees charged. The Board of Education has secured the services of five teachers from England, who have been stationed at the Out Islands with a view to raising the standard of education.

69. Apart from the Government High School referred to, secondary education is in the hands of the various religious bodies, but up to the present even secondary education has not reached a very high standard.

X.—Climate.

70. The climate of the Bahamas, especially in the winter months, is one of the finest in the world, and is probably the Colony's greatest asset. From November to May the temperature averages 70° Fahrenheit; there is little rain, and cool breezes prevail. The lowest recorded temperature (in January, 1905) is 51·5°.

71. The rainy months are May, June, September and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. The average annual rainfall for the last nineteen years was forty-six inches.

XI.—Communications.

Harbour.

72. The dredging of the Nassau Harbour channel was arrested in January, whilst the intervening space between the turning basin and the Government wharf at Rawson Square was dredged to a depth of 17 feet 6 inches below low water, thus permitting deeper draught vessels to come alongside. The placing of the port of Miami in quarantine owing to the outbreak of smallpox considerably hampered the contractors in carrying out the work on the channel, and the rock has proved very much harder than they anticipated.

73. By the beginning of June, 445,123 cubic yards had been removed out of a total of 450,000, but continual rough weather has prevented the completion as practically all of it lies on the bar itself.

74. Tenders for the construction of a wharf have been called for, and it is expected that the work will be put in hand at an early date.

Shipping.

75. In 1925, 1,244 steamers and 137 sailing vessels, of a total of 642,000 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England, via Bermuda, by the steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and a fortnightly service during the summer, from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica and British Honduras; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail Line also call at Nassau.

76. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but owing to the class of boat employed the voyages are uncomfortable and unreliable.

77. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade, and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

Roads.

78. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are little more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, 868 motor vehicles being licensed. During the year the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles.

79. Road construction at the Out Islands is being concentrated on the island of Eleuthera at present, where the Government proposes building a road suitable for motor traffic through the island for a distance of about 70 miles, with a view to developing the island agriculturally. This road will be a great boon to the tomato industry.

Post Office, Telephones, and Telegraphs.

80. The various post office services have been well maintained, and the telephone system has been extended.

81. The telegraph cable service to Florida was abandoned some years ago, owing to the difficulties of keeping the cable in repair, and the wireless service then instituted has proved a complete success. The service now comprises a central station of five kilowatts power at Nassau and ten stations of a half or one kilowatt power at various Out Islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without any interruption, except after each of the three hurricanes, and has handled a considerable amount of traffic, as many as 320 messages being exchanged in one day with a station in Florida.

82. Experiments were conducted with a small wireless plant, capable of communicating between stations ten to fifteen miles apart. Much success attended the trials and many of these small power plants will be installed with a view to connecting outlying cays and settlements with the larger stations.

CHAS. G. BETHEL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,
31*st January*, 1927.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40*s.* per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924–25, No. 1289 .. .. 1*s.* 9*d.*
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 .. .. 6*d.*
BARBADOS, 1925–26, No. 1301 .. .. 9*d.*
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 .. .. 9*d.*
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925–26, No. 1317 .. .. 1*s.*
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 .. .. 9*d.*
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1*s.*
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308. 1*s.*
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924–25, No. 1290 .. 6*d.*
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1*s.* 3*d.*
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 .. .. 3*d.*
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 .. .. .. 5*s.*
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 .. .. 1*s.* 3*d.*
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 .. .. .. 1*s.* 9*d.*
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322. 6*d.*
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 .. .. 2*s.*
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 .. .. .. 1*s.*
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 .. .. .. 9*d.*
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 .. .. 6*d.*
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923–24, No. 1246 .. .. 6*d.*
GOLD COAST, 1924–25, No. 1287 .. 2*s.* 3*d.*
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925–26, No. 1328 .. .. 1*s.*
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 .. .. 6*d.*
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 .. .. 1*s.* 6*d.*
JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 .. .. .. 1*s.*
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 .. .. 1*s.*
LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925–26, No. 1323 1*s.*
MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 .. .. 9*d.*
NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1*s.*
NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6*d.*
NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 .. .. .. 1*s.*
NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 .. .. 6*d.*
ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 .. .. 6*d.*
ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 .. .. 6*d.*
ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 .. .. 6*d.*
SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 .. .. 3*d.*
SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1*s.*
SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. .. 6*d.*
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 .. .. 2*s.*
SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 .. .. 6*d.*
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924–25, No. 1237 .. .. 3*d.*
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311. 1*s.* 6*d.*
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 .. .. 6*d.*
UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 .. .. .. 6*d.*
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 .. .. 6*s.* 3*d.*
WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 .. .. 6*d.*
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 .. .. 6*d.*

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) .. .. 4*s.* 6*d.*
'IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) .. .. 6*s.*
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5*s.* 6*d.*
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) .. .. 3*s.* 3*d.*
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4*s.*
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) .. .. 4*s.*

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920–25 (Colonial, No. 15) 2*s.*

All prices are net. Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1378.

BAHAMAS

REPORT FOR 1927.

(For Report for 1925 see No. 1295 (Price 6d.) and for Report for 1926 see No. 1330 (Price 9d.).)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1928

Price 9d. net.

58-2-0-27.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1927.

CONTENTS.

	Paragraph.
I. History and Geography	1—16
II. General	17—24
III. Finance	25—29
IV. Production	30—39
V. Trade and Economics	40—47
VI. Communications	48—55
VII. Justice, Police, and Prisons	56—58
VIII. Public Works	59—61
IX. Public Health	62—63
X. Education	64—67
XI. Lands	68—71
XII. Labour	72—73
XIII. Miscellaneous	74—78

I.—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, " cays " and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great coral banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This Bank contains only two large islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of these two islands.

3. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-West and North-East Providence Channels is the

Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, which extends along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros, which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draught. East of Andros is New Providence which, although by no means the largest, is easily the most important of the islands, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores; on Harbour Island the first settlement was made by the Adventurers who laid the foundations of the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island, San Salvador (or Watling), the first landfall of Columbus in the New World, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island, and Long Cay), Mayaguana, and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one-half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but among the honeycomb rock there are pockets of rich and fertile earth. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used, and a cultivated " field " in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard, but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills, but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture which is not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island of Group.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population. at last Census* (1921).
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Bimini	8	619
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,547
Exuma and cays	100	3,730
Grand Bahama	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence	58	12,975
Ragged Island group	5	366
Rum Cay	29	338
Cat Island	160	4,273
San Salvador or Watling	60	686
Totals	4,396	53,003

8. The total population is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, this being due in the first place to the better climate and in the second place to the fact that after the War of American Independence a number of soldiers were settled in the Bahamas. English is the only language spoken.

9. When the Bahamas were first discovered in 1492 they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the original inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonise the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. In 1647 a Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third Grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors received very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent, and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war, and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was sent to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the real rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was "roasted on a spit." In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their former occupation. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken, but the place was evacuated in a few days. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

12. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change, and the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, were used as a depot for the vessels which were running the "blockade" imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship from the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

13. In 1919 there was a sudden increase in the revenue of the Colony, due to large imports of spirits, which reached a record in 1922 and has since gradually declined.

14. The Bahamas has shared in the depreciation of land values experienced in Florida during the past two years, by the collapse of the real estate "boom," and, although prices of property have not returned to normal, there is very little activity in real estate at present. No doubt the tourists will still continue to acquire sites for their winter homes in the Bahamas, but it seems improbable that there will be any return to the abnormal activities previously experienced in the sale of real estate.

15. Owing to its many natural facilities for the tourist traffic, Nassau each year attracts an ever increasing number of winter visitors during the Season, which is from the end of December to the beginning of April. The Bahamas can boast of an unsurpassed winter climate, and the tourists who visit the Colony have many forms of sport to indulge in, including swimming, fishing, yachting, tennis, and golf. There are three first-class hotels open for visitors during the winter season.

16. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony, but there is a large quantity of United States currency and British currency notes in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations—20*s*., 10*s*., and 4*s*.—and £110,000 worth of these notes are now in circulation. English weights and measures are in use.

II.—GENERAL.

17. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

18. "The Eleutherian Adventurers" who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them the idea of representative Government which already existed in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729 when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has a negative voice in legislation. He is assisted by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, and Receiver-General are members

ex-officio, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

19. The Legislative Council consists of nine members nominated by the Crown. It has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) and to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills). It may throw out altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits, which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

20. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members, elected for 15 districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8*s*. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The life of the House is seven years unless previously dissolved by the Governor.

21. At the General Election which took place in May and June, 1925, 18 out of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections:—

Constituency.	*No. of seats.*	*No. of unsuccessful candidates.*	*No. of Votes cast for elected candidates.*	*No. of Votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.*	*Population at 1921 Census.*
New Providence (South) (*a*)	2	—	195	—	3,500 (approx.)
	1	—	175	—	
	—	1	—	119	
New Providence (East) (*a*)	2	—	252	—	2,000 (approx.)
	—	—	241	184	
	—	2	—	142	
Harbour Island (*b*) (electoral district)	3	—	339	—	2,773
	—	—	337	—	
	—	—	333	—	
	—	1	—	183	
Long Island (*a*) (with Ragged Island) ...	2	—	305	—	5,025
	—	—	257	—	
	—	1	—	115	
Crooked Island (with Long Cay and Acklin's)	1	—	93	—	3,458
	—	—	—	—	
	—	1	—	78	
Inagua	1	—	31	—	937
	—	1	—	29	

(*a*) Each elector had two votes.
(*b*) Each elector had three votes.

22. The Crown owns a considerable ar[illegible] of land in the various islands and the receipts from the sale [illegible]ases of these Crown lands are placed to the credit of a specia[illegible] which is administered by the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £17,590 in 1926, and to £7,237 in 1927.

23. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and by voting sums to a number of Boards composed largely of members of the Legislature the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

24. The policy of the Government, as expressed by the Governor in his Address at the opening of the Legislature on the 8th November, 1927, may be summarised as follows:—firstly, the encouragement of agriculture and the development of the sponge industry; secondly, the development of the islands as a health and pleasure resort; thirdly, the improvement of communications in, and with, the outlying islands; and fourthly, the resolute prosecution of the policy of developing island by island on a carefully considered plan.

III.—FINANCE.

25. Totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1922-23	852,573	377,164
1923-24	553,375	452,044
1924-25	414,314	409,970
1925-26	502,202	374,126
1926-27	531,235	474,653

26. The revenue in 1913-14 was £100,753, and in 1918-19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current year (1927-28) is £483,777, and it is probable that this amount will be realised.

27. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1927, of £1,052,312. Of this sum, £476,516 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £443,346 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company and the Golf Course Company; and £220,000 to the Waterloo Hotel Company at 4 per cent.

28. The Public Debt at the same date amounted to £154,105, the whole of this amount having been raised locally by debentures. Provision is made by law for an annual contribution from the general revenue of the Colony to a sinking fund for the redemption of these debentures as they fall due.

29. During the past few years the cost of extensive public works has been successfully met from ordinary revenue. There are now, however, very heavy commitments for harbour works and a water supply and sewerage scheme for Nassau, and it will shortly be necessary either to raise a loan or to draw on surplus funds. In anticipation of the former alternative being decided upon, the Legislature has recently passed a General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act, which will permit of the Colony taking advantage of " The Colonial Stock Act, 1877 " and raising a loan in England.

IV.—PRODUCTION.

30. *Agriculture.*—Tomatoes, pine-apples, and sisal hemp are the chief agricultural products of the Bahamas. Years ago pine-apples were exported in great quantities, but, owing to the deterioration of the stock and the failure of the soil, very few are now grown. The tomato industry, which has only been introduced into the Bahamas during the last few years, is rapidly growing and promises to replace that of the pine-apple. The sisal hemp, which is mostly cleaned by hand, is a great help to the Out Islands peasant and tides him over many hard times.

31. Citrus fruit used formerly to be grown in great quantities, but, owing to the invasion of the blue-gray fly, instead of exporting a great deal as previously not enough is now produced to meet the local demand. The Government and the Board of Agriculture are doing their utmost to revive this and other forms of fruit culture, and there are already signs that the agriculture campaign that has been inaugurated will result in a large increase in the growth throughout the islands of cereals, fruit, and vegetables.

32. *Forestry.*—The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of " pine barren." The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms, who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

33. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in *lignum vitae* and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as " horseflesh," is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madeira and cedar.

34. There is a steady demand for cascarilla bark. The shrub grows wild on the southern islands of the Group, the best quality

being found on Atwood's Cay. Experimental plots have been planted, and it is hoped to increase the supply by the cultivation of large acreages.

35. *Fisheries.*—There are quantities of excellent fish in the waters of the Colony, but there is no fishing except for local consumption. There was formerly some trade in bêche-de-mer, which was exported to China, but this trade has practically disappeared. Turtle shell is exported, and there is a fairly large trade in conch shells; the cameo of commerce is manufactured from the lip of this shell.

36. Perhaps the principal industry of the Colony is sponging. Sponges are found in great quantities in all shallow waters of the Bahamas, especially around the islands of Andros, Abaco, Exuma, Acklin's, and Eleuthera. A large number of small vessels is employed on this work, the sponges being hooked up from the bottom by the crews of these vessels. Important experiments are being carried out by the Agricultural and Marine Products Board in the planting of sponges to suit the market and to improve the quality. Extensive experiments have been conducted by an expert employed by the Imperial Government.

37. *Salt.*—A good supply of coarse salt known as "kitchen" salt is produced in ponds at Inagua, Rum Cay, and Ragged Island, and a small quantity exported.

38. The shortage of food caused by the hurricanes of 1926 was accentuated by a severe drought in 1927 which destroyed practically all the crops in the southern islands of the group. A determined effort is now being made to induce the people to return to the soil and increase the area under cultivation.

39. The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years:—

		1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927. (Approx.)*
Cascarilla Bark	lb.	21,433	15,453	86,578	28,554	31,841
	£	748	547	4,183	1,606	1,459
Tomatoes, raw ...	M Bushels	145	117	57	106	214
	£	39,245	37,388	16,710	26,516	92,497
Sisal Hemp ...	Tons	1,823	1,808	2,264	1,693	596
	£	38,381	37,830	52,137	40,082	10,632
Abaco Pine Timber	M feet	5,193	6,302	11,349	9,052	8,082
	£	29,329	35,937	61,576	48,958	49,854
Woods, other ...	Tons	183	84	108	127	76
	£	958	281	349	600	335
Shell, Tortoise ...	lb.	4,922	7,812	10,449	6,463	7,740
	£	9,267	18,243	23,350	12,093	13,421
Shell, Conch ...	No.	36,688	68,000	21,000	5,000	29,000
	£	933	268	179	365	225
Sponge	M lb.	1,073	1,490	1,655	1,532	959
	£	113,300	131,618	149,820	134,234	109,203

V.—Trade and Economics.

40. The general trade of the Colony is still feeling the effects of the three hurricanes of 1926 and the collapse of the real estate boom. The value of imports in 1927 was £204,282 less than in 1926, but there was an increase of £77,502 in the value of exports.

41. By referring to the statistics of the Colony it will be seen that imports from the United Kingdom have decreased from £758,041 in 1923 to £438,424 in 1927; whilst imports from the United States have decreased from £1,070,374 in 1923 to £778,894 in 1927.

On the other hand, imports from Canada have increased from £160,610 in 1923 to £401,224 in 1927. With regard to exports, trade with the United Kingdom has decreased from £39,483 in 1923 to £31,009 in 1927.

42. The total value of the trade of the Colony for the past five years has been as follows:—

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927. (Approximate.)*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	2,120,136	1,553,143	1,760,987	2,059,755	1,855,475
Exports	1,835,051	626,353	481,352	406,271	483,773
Total (excluding specie)	3,955,187	2,179,496	2,242,339	2,466,026	2,339,248

43. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period was as follows:—

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927. (Approximate.)*
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	758,041	507,459	560,794	525,625	438,424
Canada	160,610	173,181	240,295	462,273	401,224
United States of America	1,070,374	747,636	785,286	880,645	778,894

44. The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows:—

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927. (Approximate.)*
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	1,010,098	591,040	637,311	750,448	614,362
Wines	65,858	29,581	38,423	44,688	38,826
Cordials and Liqueurs	12,513	7,606	9,378	9,871	11,664
Salt	28,332	33,602	59,334	45,680	32,412
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes...	22,949	22,682	22,133	24,787	14,298
Foodstuffs	314,535	307,280	322,585	406,896	20,549
Lumber and shingles	37,538	26,513	38,791	55,024	52,990
Boots and shoes	19,945	21,683	19,523	33,560	23,344
Cotton manufactures	87,080	79,150	93,870	102,484	61,544
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of	44,534	80,141	54,899	59,047	73,303
Oils	32,551	42,634	43,374	59,972	65,462
Motor-cars, trucks, and parts of	16,149	16,966	32,566	40,097	26,237

45. Of local produce, the whole of the exports of tomatoes and Bahamas hemp go to the United States of America, while the exports of sponge go chiefly to United States of America, United Kingdom, France, and Germany; lumber is exported to Cuba and turtle shell to the United Kingdom.

46. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct mail service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a few hours' steam. In these circumstances it is not remarkable that there should be a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States. There is a little trade with Jamaica and Bermuda, with which places there is direct communication; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion is steadily increasing, particularly as regards importations of flour, sugar, oats, and potatoes. The decrease of imports from Canada in 1927 as compared with the previous year is due to the general depression, and in no way affects the prospects of trade between Canada and the Bahamas, which are extremely hopeful, provided that Canadian exporters will send competent salesmen to the Colony to push the sale of their products.

47. There are several wholesale houses dealing in provisions and dry goods. One New York commission house has an agent in Nassau and keeps in stock a supply of flour, rice, hominy, and meal. The majority of the stores import direct either from the United States of America or the United Kingdom.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

48. In 1927, 1,268 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total of 678,482 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England via Bermuda by the steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and during the summer a fortnightly service from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line, which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica, and British Honduras; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is a frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail Line also call at Nassau.

49. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor-boats, but, owing to the class of boat employed, the voyages are uncomfortable and unreliable.

50. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks and navigation is difficult.

51. *Roads.*—In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are scarcely more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 900 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles.

52. Road construction at the Out Islands is being concentrated on the island of Eleuthera at present, where the Government proposes building a road suitable for motor traffic through the island for a distance of about 70 miles, with the view to developing the island agriculturally. About 35 miles of road have already been completed.

53. *Post Office.*—The various postal services have been well maintained. The cash-on-delivery system is in force in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass through New York.

54. *Telegraphs.*—The telegraph cable service to Florida was abandoned some years ago, owing to the difficulties of keeping the cable in repair, and the wireless service then instituted has proved a complete success. The service now comprises a central station of five kilowatts power spark and 1½ kilowatts, continuous wave, at Nassau, and nine stations of half or one kilowatt power and eight smaller stations each of 100 watts, continuous wave, at various Out Islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without any interruption and has handled a considerable amount of traffic, as many as 400 messages being exchanged in one day with a station in Florida.

55. *Telephones.*—There is a telephone system, with 950 subscribers, in New Providence. All the main settlements of Eleuthera, Cat Island, and Long Island are also connected by telephone.

VII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

56. The law in force in the Colony consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate

in Nassau, who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district.

57. There is an armed police force, consisting of 125 rank and file, with four officers. Most of the Force is stationed in Nassau, police work in the Out Islands being in the hands of local constables.

58. There is a central prison in Nassau, to which all long-term prisoners from the Out Islands are committed.

VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

59. Work was begun on the dredging of Nassau Harbour in 1923, and is now approaching completion. By the end of March, 1928, a turning basin, twenty-five feet deep at low-water, and measuring about 850 feet wide and some 1,500 feet in length, will be completed in the harbour, and will be connected with the open sea by a channel of the same depth and 250 feet in width. The construction of a wharf, fronting on the turning basin, was begun during the year and will shortly be completed. It is estimated that a sum of about £390,000 will have been expended on these works when they are completed.

60. A water supply scheme for the city of Nassau, estimated to cost £120,000, was begun in April last; progress on the work has been so rapid that water has already been supplied to householders in some districts and it is anticipated that the work will be completed within the next three months.

61. Work was also begun, towards the end of the year, on a water-borne sewerage system for Nassau, the estimated cost of which is £150,000. It is hoped that this work will be completed by the 31st March, 1929.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

62. Owing to the occurrence of some cases of typhoid fever in the spring of 1927, and the importance of maintaining the high reputation of the Bahamas as a health resort, it was decided to obtain the advice of a sanitary expert: Major-General Sir Wilfred Beveridge, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., late Director of Hygiene at the War Office, accordingly visited the Colony in September last, and his report is now under consideration.

63. Apart from the occurrence of typhoid, which was of a very mild type (one of the paratyphoid group), with an extremely low mortality rate, the general health of the community during the past year has been good. Malaria is not common in Nassau, the *Anopheles* mosquito being found only in the Western district of New Providence and Hog Island, though they are fairly abundant in several of the Out Islands.

X.—EDUCATION.

64. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided free by the Government. In 1926-27 a sum of £28,000 was expended from public funds on primary education under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

65. There are now seven Government and grant-in-aid primary schools in New Providence (population 13,000) and 100 in the Out Islands (population 40,000). At first sight the number of schools seems adequate, but it must be remembered that there are so many islands, and the settlements on these islands are so scattered, that a great many children are not within reach of a school. Many of the children who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools; to at least one school, children come in boats, managed by themselves, from neighbouring " cays."

66. The chief handicap of education, however, is the shortage of efficient teachers. The lonely life on the Out Islands, and the comparatively small salary, does not attract the best type of man, and probably not half of the teachers in the Out Islands could be described as competent. There are very few assistant teachers and in a large school the teacher is forced to depend on the help given him by " monitors," who, in many cases, are almost as ignorant as the pupils they try to teach. The Government is alive to the seriousness of the situation, and during the year 1925 a Government High School was started in Nassau to train teachers and to provide a secondary education for those who can afford to pay the small fees charged. The Board of Education has secured the services of five teachers from England, who have been stationed at the Out Islands with a view to raising the standard of education.

67. Apart from the Government High School referred to, secondary education is in the hands of the various religious bodies, but up to the present even secondary education has not reached a very high standard.

XI.—LANDS.

68. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 596½ square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 430 square miles of Grand Bahama which is being leased to the Grand Bahama Mercantile and Development Company, Limited. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp and rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

69. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1927 eighty-three Crown land grants have been issued for a total area of 878 acres.

70. The value of all land has considerably increased, especially on the island of New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, stands. The vacant Crown land on New Providence is of little value for agriculture, but the island has developed so rapidly as a tourist resort that the land is greatly in demand.

71. Crown land in New Providence is sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value, and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase if an island is permanently improved. On the larger islands, if extensive tracts are sold, special terms are arranged.

XII.—LABOUR.

72. The lack of remunerative industries in the Out Islands has, in the past, caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being steadily depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force in 1914, put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population, but, owing to the large amount of work put in hand by real estate developers and builders, there was ample employment for all until towards the end of 1926, and the price of labour was very high. In 1925-26 ordinary unskilled labour, of poor quality, was paid at the rate of 5s. to 6s. a day, while carpenters and masons drew four times as much. During the last twelve months, however, there has been a great deal of unemployment and the cost of labour has been considerably reduced.

73. Owing to the uncompromising nature of the soil and the difficulty of transporting their crops to Nassau, there is very little money to be made by agriculturists in the Out Islands, and the people have, in recent years, flocked to Nassau for employment. The temporary set-back to the prosperity of the Colony, caused by the three disastrous hurricanes of 1926 and the slump in real estate development, will probably prove to be a blessing in disguise, as the people are realising the advisability of industries more stable than those they have depended upon in the past, and are turning, in their need, to agriculture.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

74. During the year an Act was passed to provide for an annual contribution to the expenses of the Standing Conference of British Guiana, British Honduras, the Bahama Islands, and the British West Indian Islands, the Legislature thereby sanctioning the adherence of the Bahamas to this Conference.

75. Another Act passed during the year prohibited the importation of whiskey or brandy less than three years old.

76. Perhaps the most interesting event of the year was the opening of the new harbour constructed by private enterprise at Hatchet Bay, in the island of Eleuthera. A large pond has been connected with the sea by a canal cut through the solid rock for a distance of forty yards, and, when the work has been completed, will afford safe anchorage for vessels drawing up to twenty feet. The company engaged on this development proposes to export limestone, which is found there in particularly rich quality, and to extend its activities in other directions.

77. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch at Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank, worked by the Post Office Department.

78. Major C. W. J. Orr, C.M.G., succeeded Sir H. E. S. Cordeaux, K.C.M.G., as Governor during the year. Major Orr assumed office on the 15th March, 1927.

A. C. BURNS,
Colonial Secretary.

NASSAU,
9th January, 1928.

(1323—21) Wt. 24143—1687 750 3/28 H. St. G 7/8

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.
BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
'IRAQ.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1426.

BAHAMAS

REPORT FOR 1928.

(For Report for 1926 see No. 1330 (Price 9d.) and for Report for 1927 see No. 1378 (Price 9d.).)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1929

Price 9d. net.

58-1426.

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926 to May, 1927. Cmd. 2898. 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 9*d*.).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 3.) 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9*d*. (10*d*.).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1927 to May, 1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6*d*. (8*d*.).

Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series of publications on the problems connected with the marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the British Empire. The following six volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Meat, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Fruit, 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.); Dairy Produce, 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.); Fish, 6*d*. (8*d*.); Poultry, Eggs, Honey, 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6*d*. (7*d*.). The relationship between the Committee and the Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include Postage.

OBTAINABLE FROM THE SALE OFFICES OF

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

AT THE ADDRESSES SHOWN ON THE FRONT COVER OF THIS REPORT, OR THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1928.

CONTENTS.

		Paragraph
I.	History and Geography	1–16
II.	General	17–23
III.	Finance	24–28
IV.	Production	29–36
V.	Trade and Economics	37–44
VI.	Communications	45–52
VII.	Justice, Police, and Prisons...	53–55
VIII.	Public Works	56–59
IX.	Public Health	60
X.	Education	61–64
XI.	Lands	65–67
XII.	Labour	68–69
XIII.	Miscellaneous	70–74
	Sketch Map	

I.—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, "cays" and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great coral banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This Bank contains only two large islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of these two islands.

3. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-West and North-East Providence Channels is the Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, which extends along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draught. East of Andros is New Providence, which, although by no means the largest, is easily the most important of the islands, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores; on Harbour Island the first settlement was made by the Adventurers who laid the foundations of the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island, San Salvador (or Watling), the first landfall of Columbus in the New World, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island, and Long Cay), Mayaguana, and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one-half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but among the honeycomb rock there are pockets of rich and fertile earth. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used, and a cultivated "field" in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard, but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills, but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture which is not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island of Group.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last Census* (1921).
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Bimini	8	610
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,547
Exuma and cays	100	3,730
Grand Bahama	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands).	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence	58	12,975
Ragged Island group	5	366
Rum Cay	29	338
Cat Island	160	4,273
San Salvador or Watling	60	686
Totals	4,396	53,003

8. The total population is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, this being due in the first place to the better climate and in the second place to the fact that after the War of American Independence a number of soldiers were settled in the Bahamas. English is the only language spoken.

9. When the Bahamas were first discovered in 1492 they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the original inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonise the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. In 1647 a Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in Six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors received very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent, and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war, and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was sent to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the real rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica ; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was "roasted on a spit". In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their former occupation. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken, but the place was evacuated in a few days. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

12. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change, and the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, were used as a depot for the vessels which were running the "blockade" imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship from the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

13. There was a sudden increase in the Revenue of the Colony in 1919 which was the result of large importations of spirits. These importations reached a record in 1922, but have since gradually declined.

14. The value of property has not returned to that prevailing before the land " boom " of three or four years ago which spread to this Colony from Florida. There are few transactions in real estate at present although from time to time citizens of the United States and Canadians purchase land and build winter homes in the Bahamas.

15. The Colony is gradually, but surely establishing its reputation as a tourist resort owing to its unrivalled winter climate, bathing beaches, fishing, yachting, tennis, golf, and old-world atmosphere. For the 1928–1929 Season there are no less than 33 excursion steamers scheduled to call at Nassau, two of these being from the United Kingdom. There are three first class hotels two of which are situated on the water front. The Season is from the end of December to the beginning of April.

16. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony but a large amount of United States currency and some British currency notes are also in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations, viz., 20*s*., 10*s*., and 4*s*., to the total value of £110,000.

II.—GENERAL.

17. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

18. " The Eleutherian Adventurers " who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them the idea of representative Government which already existed in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729 when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has a negative voice in legislation. He is assisted by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and Receiver-General are members *ex-officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

19. The Legislative Council consists of nine members nominated by the Crown. It has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) and to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly

(other than money bills). It may throw out altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits, which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

20. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members, elected for 15 districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The life of the House is seven years unless previously dissolved by the Governor.

21. On the 7th June, 1928, the Governor dissolved the House of Assembly owing to the action of the Speaker in withholding a Bill which had been passed by both Houses of the Legislature, after having received the Governor's command to present all Bills that were ready for his assent. At the General Election which followed in June and July, 24 out of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections :—

Constituency.	*No. of seats.*	*No. of unsuccessful candidates.*	*No. of votes cast for elected candidates.*	*No. of votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.*	*Population at 1921 Census.*
New Providence (East)(*a*)	2	—	236	203	
	—	—	235	—	2,000
	—	1	—	—	(approx.)
Cat Island (*a*)	2	1	331	31	4,273
			160	—	
Rum Cay and San Salvador (*b*).	1	1	107	6	1,024

(*a*) Each elector had two votes. (*b*) Each elector had one vote.

22. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various islands and the receipts from the sale and lease of these Crown lands are placed to the credit of a special fund which is administered by the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £7,237 in 1927, and to £4,379 in 1928.

23. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and by voting sums to a number of Boards composed largely of members of the Legislature the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

III.– FINANCE.

24. Totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1923–24	553,375	452,044
1924–25	414,314	409,970
1925–26	502,202	374,126
1926–27	531,235	474,653
1927–28	485,319	672,986

25. The revenue in 1913–14 was £100,753, and in 1918–19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current year (1928–29) is £440,554, and it is probable that this amount will be realised.

26. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1928, of £863,646. Of this sum, £476,337 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £438,146 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company and the Golf Course Company ; and £220,000 to the Waterloo Hotel Company at 4 per cent.

27. The Public Debt at the same date amounted to £159,330, the whole of this amount having been raised locally by debentures. Provision is made by law for an annual contribution from the general revenue of the Colony to a sinking fund for the redemption of these debentures as they fall due.

28. The very large public works which have been carried out during the past few years, including the dredging of a harbour, the building of a wharf, and the installation of water and sewerage systems, have been financed partly from general revenue, and partly by advances obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies. It is proposed to liquidate these advances by means of savings, and thus obviate if possible the necessity of either disposing of investments or raising a loan.

IV.—PRODUCTION.

29. *Agriculture.*—Although the Bahamas are not well adapted to agriculture owing to the rocky state of the land and poverty of the soil, there are certain products which thrive and are produced in great quantities with the assistance of fertilizers. The chief agricultural products are tomatoes and sisal hemp. Pineapples and citrus fruits used to be grown and exported in large quantities some years ago, but owing to the failure of the soil and foreign competition in the former and the appearance of the blue-gray fly in the latter, the production has been greatly reduced and only small quantities of canned pineapples are now exported. The tomato industry has

only been introduced into the Bahamas within recent years, but it is rapidly developing, although if it is going to prove a real succe and help to the growers and the Colony generally, it will requi co-operative action in the growing, grading, packing and exporting of this vegetable. Sisal is a great help to the peasant farmer and tides him over many a period of hard times, for he is always able to find a market for sisal although at times the price may be low. Sisal has been shipped mostly to the United States of America in the past but recently a market appears to be opening up in the United Kingdom for this commodity.

30. Owing to the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928 and the carrying out of extensive public works in Nassau, the Out Island peasants have flocked into Nassau in search of work with the result that agriculture on the Out Islands has been more or less neglected. The Government is, however, doing its utmost to urge and encourage these people to return to their homes and the land once more, for the prosperity of the Colony depends on the Out Islands and they in turn on their efforts at self-support, chiefly from the soil.

31. *Forestry.*—The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine barren." The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms, who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

32. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignum vitæ and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as "horseflesh," is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madera and cedar.

33. Cascarilla bark grows wild on certain islands in the Colony, Atwood's Cay producing the greatest in quality and quantity. There is a fairly steady demand for this bark, and the Government closes Atwood's Cay at intervals to the gathering of bark in order to prevent the shrub from being exterminated.

34. *Fisheries.*—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being no attempt at export. The following are the names of those most commonly eaten :—

Margate, Grouper, Jack, Hog Fish, Amber Fish, Yellow Tail, Snapper, Bone Fish, Turbot, Black Fish, King Fish, Grunt, Hound Fish, Goggle-eye, and Jew Fish.

A factory is in the process of being established at Eleuthera for the canning and exporting of turtle and craw fish.

35. Sponging is the most important industry of the Colony, and affords employment for a large number of men and boys. Schooners with complements of small dinghies make voyages to the shallow waters of the Colony, the principal fishing ground being that known as "The Mud," which is situated to the west of Andros. The sponges are hooked from the bottom by men in the dinghies by means of a hook at the end of a large staff and the use of a water glass with which the sponges are easily seen on the bottom as the water is so clear and transparent. Coarse salt is produced from salt ponds or "pans" in several of the Out Islands, but very little is exported, as there does not appear to be any great demand at present.

36. The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years :—

		1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (*Approx.*)
Cascarilla Bark	lb.	15,453	86,578	28,554	31,920	57,344
	£	547	4,183	1,606	1,459	2,189
Tomatoes, raw	M bushels	117	57	106	214	189
	£	37,388	16,710	26,516	92,497	99,017
Sisal Hemp	Tons	1,808	2,264	1,693	596	641
	£	37,830	52,137	40,082	10,632	12,357
Abaco pine timber ...	M feet	6,302	11,349	9,05?	8,082	3,962
	£	35,937	61,576	48,9??	?,854	21,640
Woods, other	Tons	84	108	127	76	118
	£	281	349	600	335	416
Shell, Tortoise	lb.	7,812	10,449	6,463	7,740	7,028
	£	18,243	23,350	12,093	13,421	12,121
Shell, Conch	No.	68,000	21,000	5,000	2,900	37,550
	£	268	179	365	225	208
Sponge	M. lb.	1,490	1,655	1,532	959	813
	£	131,618	149,820	134,234	109,203	120,666

V.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

37. The general trade of the Colony is still feeling the effects of the three hurricanes of 1926 and the collapse of the real estate boom. The value of imports in 1928 was £13,680 less than in 1927, and there was a decrease of £62,685 in the value of exports.

38. By referring to the statistics of the Colony it will be seen that imports from the United Kingdom have decreased from £758,041 in 1923 to £401,795 in 1928; whilst imports from the United States have decreased from £1,070,374 in 1923 to £731,684 in 1928. On the other hand, imports from Canada have increased from £160,610 in 1923 to £455,257 in 1928. With regard to exports, trade with the United Kingdom has increased from £39,483 in 1923 to £47,132 in 1928.

39. The total value of the trade of the Colony for the past five years has been as follows :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (*Approx.*)
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,553,143	1,760,987	2,059,755	1,844,932	1,845,043
Exports	626,353	481,352	406,271	483,773	472,379
Total (excluding specie) ...	2,179,496	2,242,339	2,466,026	2,328,705	2,317,422

40. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period was as follow :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (*Approx.*)
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	507,459	560,794	525,625	438,424	422,032
Canada	173,181	240,295	462,273	401,498	437,138
United States of America	747,636	782,286	880,645	767,894	765,345

41. The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (*Approx.*)
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	591,040	637,311	750,448	614,372	648,155
Wines	29,581	38,423	44,688	38,826	43,712
Cordials and Liqueurs ...	7,606	9,378	9,871	11,664	11,916
Salt	33,606	59,334	45,680	32,412	32,208
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.	22,682	22,133	24,787	20,926	20,169
Foodstuffs	307,280	322,585	406,896	376,023	353,008
Lumber and Shingles ...	26,513	38,791	55,024	52,990	36,510
Boots and Shoes ...	21,683	19,523	33,560	23,344	24,569
Cotton Manufactures ...	79,150	93,870	102,484	61,544	65,144
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of.	80,141	54,899	59,047	111,331	108,028
Oils	43,634	43,374	59,972	65,462	49,496
Motor-cars, trucks, and parts of.	16,966	32,566	40,097	26,237	30,237

42. Of local produce, the whole of the exports of tomatoes and most of the Bahamas sisal hemp go to the United States of America, while the exports of sponge go chiefly to United States of America, United Kingdom, France, and Germany ; lumber is exported to Cuba and turtle shell to the United Kingdom.

43. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct mail service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a few hours steam. In these circumstances it is not remarkable that there should be a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States. There is

a little trade with Jamaica and Bermuda, with which places there is direct communication ; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion is steadily increasing, particularly as regards importations of flour, sugar, oats, and potatoes. The decrease of imports from Canada in 1927 as compared with the previous year is due to the general depression, and in no way affects the prospects of trade between Canada and the Bahamas, which are extremely hopeful, provided that Canadian exporters will send competent salesmen to the Colony to push the sale of their produce.

44. There are several wholesale houses dealing in provisions and dry goods. One New York commission house has an agent in Nassau and keeps in stock a supply of flour, rice, hominy, and meal. The majority of the stores import direct either from the United States of America or the United Kingdom.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

45. In 1928, 1,116 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total of 732,458 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England via Bermuda by the Steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and during the summer a fortnightly service from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line, which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica, and British Honduras ; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail Line also call at Nassau.

46. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but, owing to the class of boat employed, the voyages are not over comfortable or very reliable.

47. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks and navigation is difficult.

48. *Roads.*—In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are scarcely more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 1,100 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved ; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles.

49. The Government's plan for developing the Out Islands is that of concentrating on one Island at a time. At present road construction is being carried out at Eleuthera where a road of about 70 miles in length which is being made suitable for motor traffic will shortly be completed; the idea being to encourage and develop agriculture.

50. *Post Office.*—The various postal services have been well maintained during the year with two or three exceptions caused by the hurricanes. The Cash-on-delivery system is in force in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom have to pass through New York as there is no direct Mail Service. Domestic Parcel Post was established on the 1st December, 1928, and all District Post Offices were made Money Order Offices on the same date.

51. *Telegraphs.*—This service, which is maintained by the Bahamas Government, consists of a central station of five kilowatts power spark and 1½ kilowatts, continuous wave, at Nassau, and nine stations of half or one kilowatt power and eight smaller stations each of 25 watts, continuous wave, at various Out Islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes, and for dissemination of storm warnings. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without any interruption, except for a short time after the September hurricane, and has handled with complete satisfaction the ever-growing volume of telegraph traffic. The telegraph cable between Nassau and Jupiter, Florida, broke down some years ago and was abandoned owing to cost of upkeep and the present wireless service substituted.

52. *Telephones.*—In Nassau there is a Government telephone system with 1,000 subscribers. It is what is known as the Magneto system. Cat Island, Eleuthera, and Long Island have all their principal settlements connected up by telephone.

VII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

53. The law in force in the Colony consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

54. The Colony's armed Police Force consists of 125 rank and file and 4 Officers. The force is stationed chiefly in Nassau, the Out Islands being policed mostly by local constables.

55. The main prison is in Nassau. All long term prisoners are sent to Nassau to undergo their sentences. A riot occurred in the prison during the year, and resulted in the shooting of one of the prisoners. Steps have been taken to improve the discipline in the prison and obtain a better type of warder.

VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

56. The water supply scheme for the City of Nassau was completed on the 30th September, 1928. The area which is supplied with water is about eight square miles in extent. The population of Nassau is approximately 15,000 persons. The waterworks are able to deliver 500,000 gallons per day. Pure fresh water is pumped from the south side of the Blue Hills to a service reservoir located on Fort Fincastle Hill, 3½ miles away. The capacity of the reservoir is 325,000 gallons. This reservoir serves the entire low-lying area of the City. Within 150 yards of the reservoir is located the High Level Water Tower, which has a capacity of 85,000 gallons. This tower serves the residences located on the high ground overlooking the City as well as serving the Fire Department for fire fighting purposes.

57. The drainage and sewerage scheme for the City is rapidly nearing completion, about 85 per cent. of the work having been accomplished. It is hoped to complete the work by the 31st March, 1929.

58. The dredging of the main entrance channel and turning basin of Nassau Harbour was completed on the 31st August, 1928. The main entrance channel has a width of 730 feet at its mouth, and narrows to 250 feet. The depth of water for 2,000 feet up the entrance of the channel from the Bar is 27 feet (L.W.O.S.T.), and from there on to the turning basin it is 25 feet (L.W.O.S.T.). The turning basin is oval in shape, being 1,500 feet long and 875 feet wide. The depth of water in the basin is 25 feet (L.W.O.S.T.).

59. A concrete Island Wharf 600 feet long and 100 feet wide has been constructed on the southern side of the turning basin and 142 feet north of Rawson Square water front. This wharf is connected to the main water front at Rawson Square by a steel bridge 50 feet wide. On the Wharf is a shed 550 feet long and 60 feet wide. The Wharf was completed on the 31st July, 1928, and the shed on the 31st December, 1928.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

60. Although the typhoid incidence made a sudden jump from 38 in 1926 to 110 in 1927, the general health was exceptionally good. During the month of January there was not a single notification sent to the Board of Health. In February there were only two notifications, one of typhoid and one of tuberculosis. From March to May there was an increase in the typhoid rate from 13 to 30,

which gradually declined to 3 in December. There were seven cases of tuberculosis in all reported for the year, puerperal sepsis 2, influenza 1. In May, measles made its appearance in the Colony, 13 cases being notified in that month. This disease was more or less epidemic during the year, a total of 88 cases being reported to the Board of Health. Only two cases of chicken-pox, whooping cough, and leprosy were reported for the year.

X.—EDUCATION.

61. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided by the Government. In 1927–28 a sum of £31,294 was expended from public funds on primary education under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

62. There are now seven Government and grant-in-aid primary schools in New Providence (population 13,000) and 100 in the Out Islands (population 40,000). At the first sight the number of schools seems adequate, but it must be remembered that there are so many islands, and the settlements on these islands are so scattered, that a great many children are not within reach of a school. Many of the children who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools; to at least one school, children come in boats, managed by themselves, from neighbouring "cays".

63. The chief handicap of education, however, is the shortage of efficient teachers. The lonely life on the Out Islands, and the comparatively small salary, does not attract the best type of man, and probably not half of the teachers in the Out Islands could be described as competent. There are very few assistant teachers and in a large school the teacher is forced to depend on the help given him by "monitors," who, in many cases, are almost as ignorant as the pupils they try to teach. The Government is alive to the seriousness of the situation, and during the year 1925 a Government High School was started in Nassau to train teachers and to provide a secondary education for those who can afford to pay the small fees charged. The Board of Education has secured the services of five teachers from England, who have been stationed at the Out Islands with a view to raising the standard of education.

64. Apart from the Government High School referred to, secondary education is in the hands of the various religious bodies, but up to the present even secondary education has not reached a very high standard.

XI.—LANDS.

65. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 596½ square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 430 square miles of Grand Bahama which is being leased to the Grand Bahama Mercantile

and Development Company, Limited. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp and rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

66. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1928, 156 Crown Land Grants have been issued for a total area of 1,339 acres. During the land boom in 1924–26, the value of all lands increased considerably, especially on the Island of New Providence on which Nassau, the Capital of the Colony stands. Since this period, though the value is still much above the pre-boom prices, yet it has decreased to a great extent. Crown Land in New Providence is of little agricultural value and, at present, there is no great demand for home sites.

67. Crown Land in New Providence is usually sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value, and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase if an island is permanently improved. On the larger islands, if extensive tracts are sold, special terms are arranged.

XII.—LABOUR.

68. The lack of remunerative industries in the Out Islands has, in the past, caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being steadily depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force in 1914, put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population, but, owing to the large amount of work put in hand by real estate developers and builders, there was ample employment for all until towards the end of 1926, and the price of labour was very high. In 1926–27 ordinary unskilled labour of poor quality, was paid at the rate of 5*s*. to 6*s*. a day, while carpenters and masons drew four times as much. During the last twelve months, a great deal of the unemployment has been absorbed by work afforded by the installation of a sewerage system in New Providence.

69. Owing to the uncompromising nature of the soil and the difficulties of transporting their crops to Nassau, there is not a great deal of money to be made by agriculturists in the Out Islands and the people have, in recent years, flocked to Nassau in search of of employment. The temporary set-back to the prosperity of the Colony, caused by the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928 and the slump in real estate development, will probably prove to be a blessing in disguise, as the people are realising the advisability of industries more stable than those they have depended upon in the past, and the Government is doing its best to induce them to return to agriculture.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

70. The year 1928 appears to have been one of storms in many parts of the world and the Bahamas did not escape its share. This was most unfortunate as the Colony was just recovering from the effects of the severe hurricanes of 1926, after escaping altogether in 1927. On August the 6th there was a storm of some intensity, which fortunately only affected seriously the northern part of Andros, but which caused considerable damage to property and crops and caused the loss of a fishing vessel with its entire crew of seven. In September a far more severe hurricane, the fourth in a little over two years, which originated about 150 miles east of Montserrat passed over the Bahamas leaving in its wake great destruction of houses, property, and crops, but very little damage to shipping and only one death caused by a falling house. The shipping and inhabitants escaped disaster due chiefly to the timely warning received about seven days before hand of the approach of the storm, and the fact that the warnings emphasised that it was a dangerous storm of great intensity. Also the Out Island Districts of the Colony being practically all linked up with Nassau the capital by a chain of wireless stations, enabled the distant islands to be warned and all possible precautions to be taken. The Islands chiefly affected by this storm were, Cat Island, Eleuthera, (including Harbour Island), New Providence, Bimini, and Grand Bahama. After the hurricane relief supplies were distributed where necessary, public works started to afford employment and assistance given in repairing and replacing damaged homes. The wind reached a velocity of 125 M.P.H. and the barometer fell 28.08 which is the lowest reading recorded during any storm in this Colony since 1866.

71. The Colony was honoured in September by a visit from H.R.H. Prince George, who was serving on H.M.S. " Durban " which was ordered to the Bahamas for the purpose of rendering assistance after the September hurricane. With the permission of His Majesty the King the Prince landed officially at Nassau on the 1st October and was received on the wharf by the Governor and the Members of the Executive Council, and by a Guard of Honour furnished by the Police. His Royal Highness after inspecting the Guard of Honour, then drove with the Governor through the principal streets of Nassau which were decorated with flags and lined by crowds of people anxious to show their loyalty to the Throne. The school children paraded in full force and were inspected by the Prince, to whom a number of leading citizens and their wives were subsequently presented at Government House. This was the first visit to the Colony of a member of the royal family since that of Prince Albert, in 1861, and the welcome given to his Royal Highness by the people of Nassau was enthusiastic. With the Prince's permission the recently completed wharf has been named Prince George's Wharf in memory of the visit.

72. The Bahamas appointed a delegate to represent the Colony at the First West Indies Conference to be held in Barbados in January, 1929.

73. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch in Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank which is operated under the Post Office Department.

74. The following are the most important Acts passed during the year :—

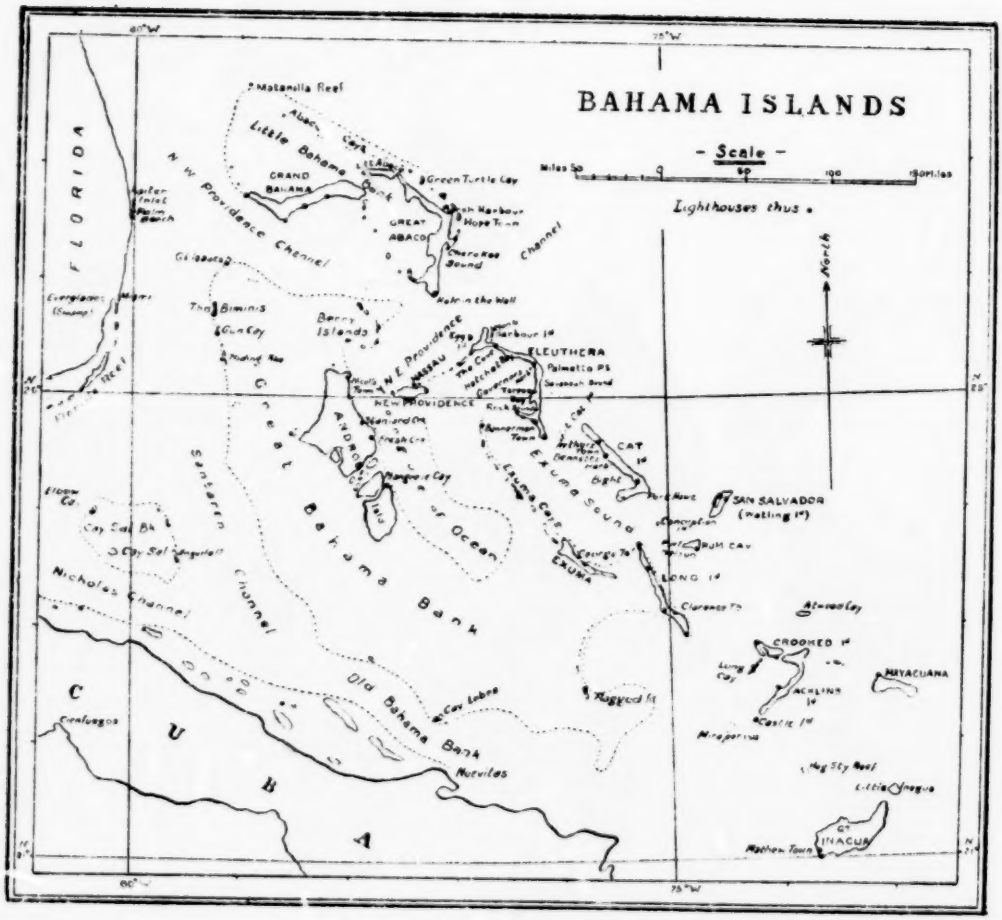
The Medical Department Act, 1928.—This Act was passed with the object of giving effect to the recommendations of Sir Wilfred Beveridge for the reorganisation of the Public Health Service of the Colony as contained in his report on the Public Health and Medical conditions in New Providence.

The Public Establishments Act, 1928.—This Act was passed with a view to improving the conditions in the Public Service of the Colony in order to attract the best men available and to secure the desirable degree of efficiency from and contentment of the present staff.

The Immigration Act, 1928.—This Act originated in the House of Assembly and was reported by the Select Committee appointed " to consider what action (if any) should be taken to limit and control the business activities of non-residents of the Colony."

CHAS. P. BETHEL,
Acting Colonial Secretary

Nassau,
12*th March*, 1929.



(4154-21) Wt. 25920—1975 750 6/20 P.St. G.7/8.

Reports of Imperial and Colonial Interest.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. Cmd. 2768 ... 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 1*d.*)

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.
Cmd. 2769 ... ... 4*s.* 0*d.* (4*s.* 6*d.*)

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. Cmd. 2883 ... 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 4*d.*)

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.
Cmd. 2884 ... ... 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 9½*d.*)

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
Cmd. 2825 ... ... 2*s.* 0*d.* (2*s.* 1½*d.*)

COLONIAL AGRICULTURE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the Colonial Agricultural Service.
Cmd. 3049 ... ... 9*d.* (10*d.*)

All prices are net, and those in parentheses include postage.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh; York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 15, Donegall Square West, Belfast; or through any Bookseller.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

'IRAQ.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

The

Sale Offices

of

H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

will

—— tell you what recent Government Publications have appeared on subjects which interest you.

—— supply you promptly and cheaply with reports and other works of current and topical interest; *e.g.*, the Budget, the Coal Report.

—— receive your subscriptions for the early delivery of important papers; *e.g.*, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), the Board of Trade Journal, etc.

—— accept a deposit account and execute standing orders for all publications which interest you; *e.g.*, those on History, Medicine, Law, Education, Trade, Shipping, Wireless, Coal Mining, etc.

—— supply you, without charge, with catalogues, lists and leaflets.

Call at or write to any of these addresses

LONDON:
Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2;
York Street, MANCHESTER; 120 George Street, EDINBURGH; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, CARDIFF; 15 Donegall Square W., BELFAST.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

[*Crown Copyright Reserved.*]

No. 1477.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1929.

(For Reports for 1927 and 1928 see Nos. 1378 and 1426 (Price 9d. each).)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1930.

Price 1s. 0d. net.

58-1477

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1929. Cmd. 3372. 9*d.* (10*d.*)

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 9*d.*).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 3.) 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) (Out of print.)

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbadoes. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1927, to May, 1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6*d.* (8*d.*).

Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6*d.* (8*d.*).

Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Development of Agriculture in British Honduras. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 16.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).

Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9*d.* (11*d.*).

Annual Report of the Empire Marketing Board. May, 1928, to May, 1929. (E.M.B. 19.) July, 1929. 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 10*d.*).

Wool, a study of the fibre. September, 1929. (E.M.B. 21.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 11*d.*).

The Demand for Cheese in London. November, 1929. (E.M.B. 22.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

The Growing Dependence of British Industry upon Empire Markets. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 23.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Insect Infestation of Stored Cacao. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 24.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include Postage.

OBTAINABLE FROM THE SALE OFFICES OF

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

AT THE ADDRESSES SHOWN ON THE FRONT COVER OF THIS REPORT,

OR THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1929.

CONTENTS.

		Paragraph
I.	History and Geography	1–15
II.	General	16–21
III.	Finance	22–26
IV.	Production	27–41
V.	Trade and Economics	42–47
VI.	Communications	48–54
VII.	Justice, Police, and Prisons...	55–57
VIII.	Public Works	58
IX.	Public Health	59–60
X.	Education	61–64
XI.	Lands	65–68
XII.	Labour	69
XIII.	Miscellaneous	70–72
	Sketch Map	

I.—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of islands, "cays" and rocks lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This Bank contains only two large islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of both these islands.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
SEP 15 1930
DIVISION OF DOCUMENTS

3. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-West and North-East Providence Channels is the Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, extending along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draught. East of Andros is New Providence, which, although by no means the largest, is the most important of the islands, having the capital, and the chief port, Nassau, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores. On Harbour Island the first settlement was colonized by the Adventurers who founded the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island, San Salvador (or Watling), the first landfall of Columbus in the New World, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island, and Long Cay), Mayaguana and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one-half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but the honeycomb rock contains pockets of rich and fertile soil. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used, and a cultivated "field" in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard, but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills, but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population on each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island of Group.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last Census* (1921).
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Bimini	8	610
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,547
Exuma and Cays	100	3,730
Grand Bahama	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands).	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence	58	12,975
Ragged Island group	5	366
Rum Cay	29	338
Cat Island	160	4,273
San Salvador or Watling... ...	60	686
Totals	4,396	53,003

8. The total population is thus approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, many of them being descendants of soldiers who settled in the Bahamas after the war of American Independence. English is the only language spoken.

9. At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered—that is to say in 1492—they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of any aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British Domains. In 1647 a Company of "Eleutherian Adventurers" was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in Six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors were granted very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent, and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war, and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica ; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was "roasted on a spit." In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

12. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change ; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the "blockade" imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship on account of the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

13. During the last decade the Bahamas have experienced a new era of prosperity which reached its maximum in the years 1924 to

1926 and though there has been some decline, notably in respect to land sales and consequently of land values, the reputation the Colony has already established as a winter tourist resort, and which is due to its unrivalled climate, gives promise of an enduring and growing prosperity for the future. For the 1930 season no less than 49 excursion steamers are scheduled to call at Nassau, two of these being from the United Kingdom. For accommodation of visitors there are three first-class hotels besides smaller hotels, boarding houses and lodgings. The season is from the end of December to the beginning of April. There are indications that in future it may extend to later in the spring and during the year under review a summer excursion traffic was started between New York, Nassau, and Havana by the regular steamship service of the Munson Line. These modern developments have been of immense material benefit to Nassau but it cannot be said that as yet they are of direct advantage to the entire Colony and it must be admitted that the high cost of living and detraction from agricultural pursuits which have followed in the wake of tourist traffic and other alien influences have at least temporarily adversely affected the productivity of the Out Islands.

14. Unfortunately the period of exceptional prosperity terminated with a succession of hurricanes of which there have been no less than five since 1925. The devastation caused by the more severe of these disturbances has entailed considerable loss of property both public and private and constituted a drain on the public purse and private incomes. The damage caused to public property by the most recent hurricane of September, 1929, amounted to about £100,000 and the total value of all property destroyed cannot be computed at less than £300,000.

15. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony but a large amount of United States currency and some British currency notes are also in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations, viz., 20s., 10s., and 4s., to the total value of £110,000.

II.—GENERAL.

16. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, in early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

17. "The Eleutherian Adventurers" who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647 brought with them the conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were

managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto. He is advised by an Executive Council of nine members ; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Receiver-General are members *ex-officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

18. The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills) and to reject altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits, which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

19. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred last in June, 1928. At the General Election which followed in June and July, 24 of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections :—

Constituency.	*No. of seats.*	*No. of unsuccessful candidates.*	*No. of Votes cast for elected candidates.*	*No. of Votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.*	*Population at 1921 Census.*
New Providence (East) (*a*)	2	—	236	203	
	—	—	235	—	2,000
	—	—	—	—	(approx.)
Cat Island (*a*)	2	1	331	31	4,273
			160	—	
Rum Cay and San Salvador (*b*).	1	1	107	6	1,024

(*a*) Each elector had two votes. (*b*) Each elector had one vote.

20. The Crown owns a considerable area of land in the various islands and receipts from the sale and lease of these Crown lands are

placed to the credit of a special fund administered solely by the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £5,22 in 1929.

21. With the exception of these Crown funds the finances of the Colony are within the control of the House of Assembly, subject to the decision of the Legislative Council and the veto of the Governor. The control of departments devolves largely on Boards appointed by the Governor under various Laws which require that a certain number of the Board Members shall be members of the House of Assembly.

III.—FINANCE.

22. The newly achieved prosperity of the Colony has been reflected in the increased revenue of the last decade. In 1919 the total receipts amounted to no more than £81,000; in 1923 they had swollen to £553,000 since when the annual revenue has stood at just under or over £500,000. On the other hand, expenditure has increased in proportion and has even exceeded revenue.

23. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1924–25	414,314	409,970
1925–26	502,202	374,126
1926–27	531,235	474,653
1927–28	485,319	672,986
1928–29	517,211	673,803
	£2,450,281	£2,605,538

24. The actual excess of expenditure over revenue for this period was £355,257. This excess is due to large public works, such as dredging of harbour, building of a new wharf and transit shed, the installation of a water supply and sewerage system, the cost of which has been paid for partly out of revenue and partly by advances made by the Crown Agents. Revenue is now being derived from the improved harbour and wharfage accommodation and from the water supply, and the sewerage works were on the verge of completion at the end of the year.

25. The Public Debt on 31st March, 1929, was £180,000, the whole of which amount was raised locally by sale of debentures. Provision is made by law for annual contribution from the revenue for a sinking fund for the redemption of these debentures.

26. Investments in England in Trustee Securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. and amounting at the end of the

financial year to £476,333 represent the liquid assets of the Colony, but against this there stands at present an overdraft with the Crown Agents for the Colonies of £421,000, so that the available surplus balance amounts to £55,000 only.

IV.—PRODUCTION.

27. The natural resources of the Bahamas are marine and forest products.

28. Most important of the marine products is sponge. The principal sponging ground is that known as the "Mud" lying off the western shores of Andros Island. Of late years the output has been considerably diminished due, apparently, to depletion of the supply resulting in part from ruthless fishing but more especially from wholesale destruction of sponges with each successive hurricane. Artificial sponge culture has been resorted to and has been productive of encouraging results around Andros and Exuma Islands.

29. Coarse salt is won from salt ponds on several islands, notably Ragged Island and Inagua. The salt industry was formerly of considerable value to the Colony and after a long period during which exports fell to negligible quantities there has been during the year under review a promising revival of the trade.

30. *Fisheries.*—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being no attempt at export. The following are the names of those most commonly eaten :—

> Margate, Grouper, Jack, Hog Fish, Amber Fish, Yellow Tail, Snapper, Bone Fish, Turbot, Black Fish, King Fish, Crunt, Hound Fish, Goggle Eye, and Jew Fish.

A factory has been established at Eleuthera for the canning and exporting of turtle and craw fish.

31. Conch and turtle shell find a limited and fluctuating market. The export of the latter is apparently on the increase and prevailing prices have been good.

32. There has been some slight revival of a shark skin industry which after being started several years ago had become extinct. While there is plenty of demand for the skin it is believed that the supply is too limited to establish an important trade.

33. *Forestry.*—The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine barren." The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms, who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together

cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

34. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignum-vitae and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as "horseflesh," is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madera and cedar.

35. *Agriculture.*—The rocky nature of the land and the poverty of soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless the islands have in the past been highly productive of tropical cultivations and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which attract the peasants from the land. Another contributary factor may be the havoc caused by hurricanes during the past four years. Every effort is being made to revive agricultural production and not without a measure of success, but the year 1929 has been one of misfortune for the farmers of the Colony, every portion of which suffered either from hurricane, drought, floods, or insect pests.

36. Apart from staple foods, unfortunately produced in quantities insufficient to meet local demands, the principal cultivations of the present time are tomatoes and sisal. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality and find a ready sale on the United States market where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. But the exportation of tomatoes is difficult for peasant producers and unless co-operative marketing can be introduced the industry will be handicapped. Owing to failures in the preceding years and the destruction by hurricane of some 50 per cent. of the early plantings the main crop was delayed beyond the close of the year, but the ultimate output will probably not be reduced and the market prospects are good. In particular the first shipment of tomatoes to Canada in this year is a new and hopeful development.

37. Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, has declined until the value of exports represent barely a tenth of that of a decade earlier. The high cost of labour precludes the operation of plantations and decorticating factories, in consequence sisal cultivation is conducted entirely as a peasant industry and the fibre is prepared by hand. The product has been of inferior quality and the cultivation has suffered from neglect, but of late marked improvement has been noticeable and shipments have been made to Canada and the United Kingdom. Many of the peasants are said to be realizing that sisal production affords an assured income even with low prices and the lack of other resources is teaching them to appreciate its value while buyers are more alive to the fact that improvement in the quality of fibre shipped is the only means by which the industry can be preserved from complete extinction.

38. Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. Efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation and it is estimated that prior to the September hurricane some 10,000 trees were nearing maturity. The storm destroyed what crop there was and killed about 60 per cent. of the trees, leaving the rest in very weak condition. Notwithstanding this disappointing result there has been some demand for plants to replace losses, but it will take time before general faith in citrus cultivation can be restored.

39. Experiments have been conducted during the year with tobacco growing and have given encouraging results.

40. As an indication of growing interest in farming may be taken the formation of various Farmers' Unions. Gardening has also become an established and outstanding feature of the educational system of the Colony.

41. The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years :—

		1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Cascarilla Bark	lb.	86,578	28,554	31,920	76,728	77,124
	£	4,183	1,606	1,459	3,165	3,171
Tomatoes, raw	M Bushels	57	106	214	179	91
	£	16,710	26,516	92,497	96,078	47,759
Sisal Hemp	Tons	2,264	1,693	596	876	854
	£	52,137	40,082	10,632	15,187	15,679
Abaco pine timber ...	M feet	11,349	9,052	8,082	3,649	2,480
	£	61,576	48,958	49,854	18,541	19,319
Woods, other	Tons	108	127	76	92	128
	£	349	600	335	319	509
Shell, Tortoise	lb.	10,449	6,463	7,740	7,843	11,112
	£	23,350	12,093	13,421	13,439	17,408
Shell, Conch	No.	21,000	5,000	2,900	54,000	87,707
	£	179	365	225	311	414
Sponge	M. lb.	1,655	1,532	959	970	268
	£	149,820	134,234	109,203	115,178	106,984
Salt	M. Bushels	—	—	—	20	22
	£	—	—	—	242	245

V.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

42. The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,760,957	2,059,755	1,844,932	1,829,939	1,973,306
Exports	481,352	406,271	483,773	421,085	365,129
Total (excluding specie) ...	2,242,339	2,466,026	2,328,705	2,251,024	2,338,435

It will be seen that trade has maintained a fairly steady level and that in the year 1929 the total volume has been the largest since 1926 which figured as a record year. The increase is, however, entirely on the import side, exports have fallen off, those of the year 1929 being but 63 per cent. of the imports of 1924 and 15 per cent. below those of 1928. The latter decrease is, however, in part due to the delayed export of tomatoes.

43. The value of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period was as follows :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	560,794	525,625	438,424	401,795	420,421
Canada	240,295	462,273	401,498	455,257	521,508
United States of America	782,286	880,645	767,894	731,684	740,865

The steady rise of the figures representing imports from Canada is noteworthy.

44. The value of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	637,311	750,448	614,372	672,629	743,784
Wines	38,423	44,688	38,826	48,780	64,362
Cordials and Liqueurs ...	9,378	9,871	11,664	12,739	13,297
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	22,133	24,787	20,926	19,820	22,570
Foodstuffs	322,585	406,896	376,023	380,984	387,929
Lumber and Shingles ...	38,791	55,024	52,990	42,809	54,044
Boots and Shoes	19,523	33,560	23,344	25,173	26,322
Cotton Manufactures ...	93,870	102,484	61,544	56,715	44,522
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of—	54,899	59,047	111,331	70,353	16,840
Oils	43,374	59,972	65,462	49,231	57,114
Motor-cars, trucks and parts of—	32,566	40,097	26,237	30,625	30,741

45. The principal exports of local produce were :—

	Value.
	£
Tomatoes	47,759
Hemp	15,679
Cascarilla Bark	3,171
Lumber	19,319
Tortoise Shell	17,408
Sponge	106,984

Of these products tomatoes and cascarilla bark were exported entirely to the United States of America ; tortoise shell, with the exception of negligible quantities to Germany and the United States, went to the United Kingdom. About 50 per cent. of the hemp export went to the United States of America, 20 per cent. to Belgium

and the balance to Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The lumber export was entirely to Cuba. Sponge was exported to nine countries of Europe, the United States of America, Canada, and Japan, the major portion, i.e., 75 per cent., going to the United States of America, France, and the United Kingdom.

46. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct mail service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a day's steam. In these circumstances it is explicable that there should be a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States. There is little trade with Jamaica and Bermuda, with which places there is direct communication ; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion is steadily increasing, particularly as regards importations of flour, sugar, oats, and potatoes.

47. There are several wholesale houses dealing in provisions and dry goods. One New York commission house has an agent in Nassau and keeps in stock a supply of flour, rice, hominy, and meal. The majority of the stores import direct either from the United States of America or the United Kingdom. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch in Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank which is operated under the Post Office Department.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

48. During the year, 2,740 steamers and sailing vessels of a total of 2,111,864 tons entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number 1,317 vessels with a total tonnage of 1,011,585 called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Leyland and Harrison Lines and the Royal Mail Line. A weekly passenger and freight service to New York is maintained in the winter months by the Munson Line which is under contract with the Bahamas Government ; a passenger service to Miami is maintained by the same steamship line in the winter. The Canadian National Steamships vessels call at Nassau every two weeks. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua where 125 vessels of 43,844 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports.

49. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular subsidised services by such vessels are maintained to all islands.

50. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks and navigation is difficult.

51. *Roads.*—In New Providence there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 1,200 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and most of the roads are impassable for vehicles. In accordance with the general policy adopted in respect to development of the Out Islands, road development has been undertaken on one island at a time. A good earth road of about 70 miles in extent has been constructed and was completed during the year in the island of Eleuthera. It is hoped that such road construction will facilitate agricultural development.

52. *Post Office.*—The various postal services have been well maintained during the year. The cash-on-delivery system is in force in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass through New York as there is no direct mail service. Domestic parcel post was established some years ago, and all District Post Offices are money order offices.

53. The telegraph cable between Nassau and Jupiter, Florida, broke down some years ago and was abandoned owing to cost of upkeep and the present wireless service substituted. This service, which is maintained by the Bahamas Government, consists of a central station of five kilowatts power spark and 1½ kilowatts, continuous wave, at Nassau, and nine stations of half or one kilowatt power and eight smaller stations each of 25 watts, continuous wave, at various Out Islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes, and for dissemination of storm warnings. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without any interruption, except for a short time after the September hurricane. But it becomes yearly more evident that this installation is not capable of handling the growing volume of telegraph traffic and its replacement by a more efficient system has been under consideration during the year.

54. *Telephones.*—In Nassau there is a Government telephone system with 1,000 subscribers. On Cat Island, Eleuthera, and Long Island, all the principal settlements are connected by telephone.

VII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

55. The law in force in the Colony consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied

Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the Local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice ; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

56. The Colony's armed Police Force consists of 125 rank and file and 4 Officers. The Force is stationed chiefly in Nassau, the Out Islands being policed mostly by local constables.

57. The central prison is in Nassau. All long term prisoners are sent to Nassau to undergo their sentences.

VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

58. No works of any consequence were undertaken during the year 1929. A drainage and sewerage system for Nassau which was started in 1928 was practically completed by the end of 1929 and awaited only the connecting of houses with the main sewers. The principal works undertaken were restoration of public buildings and roads wrecked in the September hurricane. The total expenditure on these works was £70,500 but the actual cost of complete restoration will be in the region of £100,000.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

59. The total number of cases treated by the Medical Department shows a considerable increase on that of the previous year. The death-rate has, however, decreased. Last year there were 314 deaths as compared with 280 this year, a decrease of 34.

60. Mosquito-borne diseases are few and far between. Apart from a few cases of malaria mostly from the Out Islands the Colony has been free from any epidemic. With the exception of gastro-intestinal diseases, most of the epidemics that have occurred in the past have been imported and are not indigenous. There was an influenza epidemic which commenced in January when 130 cases were reported. The number of cases gradually dropped to 10 in April with a slight recrudescence in May and June of 40 cases. Last summer an epidemic of bacillary dysentery occurred when 273 cases were reported—an increase on the previous year when the number reported was eleven. Thanks to the improved water supply, which is now pipe-borne and chlorinated, typhoid incidence has dropped from 100 in 1928 to 63 last year. Tuberculosis appears to be on the increase in the Colony and the number of cases reported has risen from 23 in 1927 to 122 in 1929.

X.—EDUCATION.

61. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The average cost per pupil was £1 15s. 7d. and the total amount voted to the Board of Education was £25,550.

62. The Board maintained 52 schools besides which grants-in-aid were paid to 56 other schools. The total pupil roll was 13,264. Owing to the scattered population this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate, not a few children are out of reach of any school and in certain localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

63. In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training which is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. The results achieved have been satisfactory but the school gardens and farms suffered a severe set-back in the September hurricane. In seven schools carpentry is also taught and in 47 schools sewing lessons for the girl pupils have been introduced.

64. The Board employs sixty-nine teachers among whom are five from the United Kingdom and five from other West Indian Colonies. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government.

XI.—LANDS.

65. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 601 square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 410 square miles of Grand Bahama which is being leased to the Grand Bahama Mercantile and Development Company, Limited.

66. The large area of land still remaining to the Crown comprises much swamp and rocky and barren land, the areas most suitable for agriculture having been acquired long ago by private persons.

67. It is the present policy of the Crown not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or cultivation, when an application for a grant in fee simple is considered. During the year 1929, 51 Crown Land Grants have been issued for a total area of 826½ acres. During the land boom in 1924–26 the value of all lands increased considerably, especially on the island of New

Providence on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, is situated. Since this period, though the value is still much above the pre-boom prices, yet it has decreased to a great extent. Crown Land in New Providence has been considered as of little agricultural value, and, at present, there is no great demand for residential sites.

68. In New Providence, Crown Land is usually sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value, and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase subject to permanent improvement. In case of sale of extensive tracts on larger islands, special terms are arranged.

XII.—LABOUR.

69. The lack of remunerative industries in the Colony and more particularly in the Out Islands has in the past induced a steady flow of emigration to Florida resulting in depopulation of certain of the Islands. The United States Immigration Law of 1914 put a stop to this migration, but ample employment was then obtainable in Nassau as a result of real estate development. The cessation of the land boom in 1926 considerably restricted this development, but the construction of large public works and road development on New Providence still afforded employment. Consequent on the completion of these works there was much unemployment during the year 1929 and as a result the people are coming to realize the need for a stable industry. Attention has been concentrated on agriculture as the abiding and natural occupation of the people and the Government has given every encouragement in this direction.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

70. In September, the central islands, including New Providence, were swept by a hurricane which was the severest within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. Nassau, the capital, sustained the full brunt of the storm and suffered extensive destruction of buildings, shipping, and communications. The total damage done to public works cost the Colony about £100,000. Expenditure caused by hurricane devastations since 1926 has amounted to approximately £250,000 and has constituted a heavy strain on the financial resources of the Colony. Industry and more particularly agriculture have similarly suffered and progress has therewith been retarded.

71. Despite the extensive destruction of public amenities and private property rapid recovery was achieved and full preparation made for the tourist season which bid fair to establish a record. Unfortunately it was evident at the close of the year that the situation on the New York Stock Exchange was likely to have a restricting effect on the tourist traffic and to shorten the travelling season.

72. Among the more important legislative Acts of the year may be mentioned the following :—

The Births and Deaths Registration Act.—This Act made registration compulsory and repealed certain obsolete legislation of the same order.

The Police Force (Military Service) Act.—By this Act members of the police force become subject to military law and military service conditions in the event of any state of emergency.

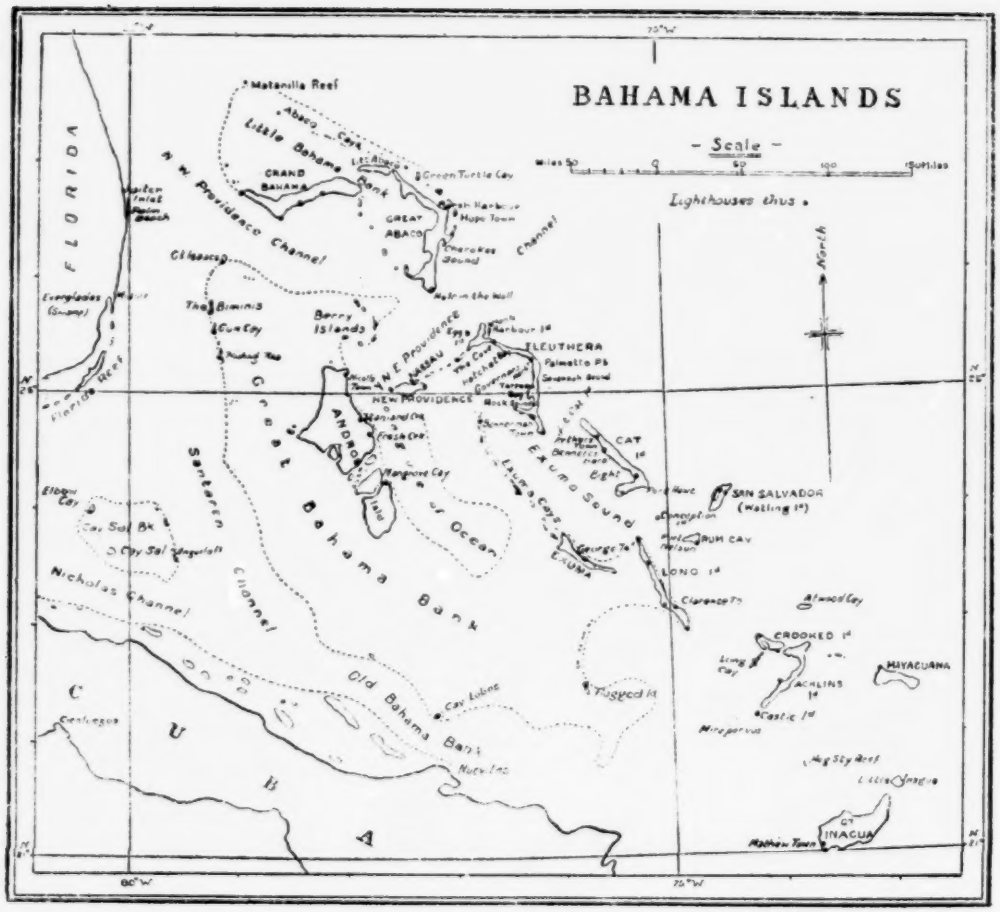
The Firearms Act.—The Act repeals the older Revolvers Acts and regulates the bearing of arms of all descriptions.

Other legislation was amending and appropriating for the expenditure of the year.

A special session of the Legislature was summoned in October for the provision of funds required for restoration of public works destroyed in the hurricane and for provision for housing of poor people whose homes were demolished.

CHARLES DUNDAS,
Colonial Secretary.

NASSAU,
14*th April*, 1930.



(7298—21) Wt. 4872—364 750 7/30 P.St. G.7/8.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.
Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679]. 3*s.* 0*d.* (3*s.* 2*d.*).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.
Report. [Cmd. 2387.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

REPORT OF THE SECOND IMPERIAL ENTOMOLOGICAL CONFERENCE. June, 1925. [Cmd. 2490.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).

WEST AFRICA.
Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.] 4*s.* 0*d.* (4*s.* 6*d.*).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2*s.* 0*d.* (2*s.* 1½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE. 1927.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 9½*d.*).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.
Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6*s.* 0*d.* 6*s.* 5*d.*).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.
Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 9*d.*).

COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3261.] 9*d.* (10*d.*)

REPORT OF THE SECOND IMPERIAL MYCOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, 1927. (Colonial No. 45.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND IN THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH COLONIAL QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER, 1924, TO NOVEMBER, 1928 [Cmd. 3268] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).

All prices are net, and those in parentheses include postage.

Obtainable from the Sale Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

At Addresses shown on the Front Cover, or through any Bookseller.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

'IRAQ.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

(7298)

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

[*Crown Copyright Reserved.*]

No. 1523.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1930.

(For Reports for 1928 and 1929 see Nos. 1426 (Price 9d.) and 1477 (Price 1s. 0d.) respectively.)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1931.

Price 1s. 0d. net.

58–1523

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4s. (4s. 4d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).

SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND IN THE COLONIAL SERVICES.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3554.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

INFORMATION AS TO THE CONDITIONS AND COST OF LIVING IN THE COLONIES, PROTECTORATES, AND MANDATED TERRITORIES. [Colonial No. 56.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).

COLONIAL FILMS.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3630.] 6d. (7d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3261.] 9d. (10d.).

REPORT OF THE SECOND IMPERIAL MYCOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, 1929. [Colonial No 45] 1s. 6d. (1s. 7d.).

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND IN THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH COLONIAL QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER, 1924, TO NOVEMBER, 1928. [Cmd. 3268.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.
Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6s. (6s. 5d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.
Report. [Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.
Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9d.).

WEST AFRICA.
Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3s 6d. (3s. 9d.).

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.
Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922. [Cmd. 1679.] 3s. (3s. 2d.).

All prices are net, and those in parentheses include postage.

Obtainable from the Sale Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

At Addresses shown on the Front Cover, or through any Bookseller.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1930.

CONTENTS.

		Paragraph
I.	History and Geography	1–15
II.	General	16–21
III.	Finance	22–26
IV.	Production	27–40
V.	Trade and Economics	41–46
VI.	Communications	47–53
VII.	Justice, Police, and Prisons	54–56
VIII.	Public Works	57
IX.	Public Health	58–59
X.	Education	60–63
XI.	Lands	64–67
XII.	Labour	68
XIII.	Miscellaneous	69
	Sketch Map	

I.—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of islands, " cays ", and rocks lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This Bank contains only two large

islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of both these islands.

3. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-West and North-East Providence Channels is the Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, extending along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draught. East of Andros is New Providence, which, although by no means the largest, is the most important of the islands, having the capital, and the chief port, Nassau, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores. On Harbour Island the first settlement was colonized by the Adventurers who founded the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island, San Salvador (or Watling), the first landfall of Columbus in the New World, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island, and Long Cay), Mayaguana, and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one-half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but the honeycomb rock contains pockets of rich fertile soil. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used, and a cultivated " field " in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard, but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills, but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population on each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island of Group.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last Census* (1921).
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Bimini	8	610
Eleuthera and Harbour Island	166	7,547
Exuma and Cays	100	3,730
Grand Bahama	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence	58	12,975
Ragged Island Group ...	5	366
Rum Cay	29	338
Cat Island	160	4,273
San Salvador or Watling ...	60	686
Totals	4,396	53,003

8. The total population is thus approximately 53,000, mostly of African race. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, many of them being descendants of soldiers who settled in the Bahamas after the war of American Independence. English is the only language spoken.

9. At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered—that is to say in 1492—they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of any aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely, 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British Domains. In 1647 a Company of "Eleutherian Adventurers" was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in Six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors were granted very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent, and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was " roasted on a spit." In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

12. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship on account of the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

13. During the last decade the Bahamas have experienced a new era of prosperity which reached its maximum in the years 1924

to 1926 and though there has been some decline, notably in respect of land sales and consequently of land values, the reputation the Colony has already established as a winter tourist resort, and which is due to its unrivalled climate, gives promise of an enduring and growing prosperity for the future. For accommodation of visitors there are three first-class hotels besides smaller hotels, boarding-houses, and lodgings. The season is from the end of December to the beginning of April. There are indications that in future it may be extended to later in the spring, and during the year under review a summer excursion traffic was started between New York, Nassau, and Havana by the regular steamship service of the Munson Line. These modern developments have been of immense material benefit to Nassau, but it cannot be said that as yet they are of direct advantage to the entire Colony, and it must be admitted that the high cost of living and detraction from agricultural pursuits which have followed in the wake of tourist traffic and other alien influences have at least temporarily adversely affected the productivity of the Out Islands.

14. Unfortunately the period of exceptional prosperity terminated with a succession of hurricanes of which there have been no less than five since 1925. The devastation caused by the more severe of these disturbances has entailed considerable loss of property, both public and private, and constituted a drain on the public purse and private incomes. The damage caused to public property by the most recent hurricane of September, 1929, amounted to about £100,000, and the total value of all property destroyed cannot be computed at less than £300,000.

15. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony but a large amount of United States currency and some British currency notes are also in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations, viz., 20s, 10s., and 4s., to the total value of £110,000.

II.—GENERAL.

16. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, in early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

17. " The Eleutherian Adventurers " who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647 brought with them the conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council and an elected Senate. The Charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected

House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto. He is advised by an Executive Council of nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, and Receiver-General are members ex-officio, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor-in-Council.

18. The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills) and to reject altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits, which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

19. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred last in June, 1928. At the General Election which followed in June and July, 24 of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections :—

Constituency.	*No. of seats.*	*No. of unsuccessful candidates.*	*No. of Votes cast for elected candidates.*	*No. of Votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.*	*Population at 1921 Census.*
New Providence (East) (*a*)	2	—	236	203	
	—	—	235	—	2,000
	—	1	—	—	(approx.)
Cat Island (*a*)	2	1	331	31	4,273
			160	—	
Rum Cay and San Salvador (*b*).	1	1	107	6	1,024

(*a*) Each elector had two votes. (*b*) Each elector had one vote.

20. The Crown owns a considerable area of land in the various islands and receipts from the sale and lease of these Crown lands are placed to the credit of a special fund administered solely by

the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £4,617 13s. 10d. in 1930.

21. With the exception of these Crown funds the finances of the Colony are within the control of the House of Assembly, subject to the decision of the Legislative Council and the veto of the Governor. The control of departments devolves largely on Boards appointed by the Governor under various Laws which require that a certain number of the Board Members shall be members of the House of Assembly.

III.—FINANCE.

22. The increased trade of the Colony has been reflected in the increased revenue of the last decade. In 1919 the total receipts amounted to no more than £81,000; in 1923 they had swollen to £553,000, since when the annual revenue has stood at between £450,000 and £500,000. On the other hand, expenditure has increased in proportion and has even exceeded revenue.

23. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1925-26	502,202	374,126
1926-27	531,235	474,653
1927-28	485,319	672,986
1928-29	517,211	673,803
1929-30	556,799	578,584
	£2,592,766	£2,774,152

24. The actual excess of expenditure over revenue for this period was £181,386. This excess is due to large public works, such as dredging of harbour, building of a new wharf and transit shed, the installation of a water supply and sewerage system, the cost of which has been paid for partly out of revenue and partly by advances made by the Crown Agents. Revenue is now being derived from the improved harbour and wharfage accommodation and from the water supply and the sewerage works.

25. The Public Debt on 31st March, 1930, was £180,000, the whole of which amount was raised locally by sale of debentures. Provision is made by law for annual contribution from the revenue for a sinking fund for the redemption of these debentures.

26. Investments in England in Trustee Securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. and amounting at the end of the financial year to £200,000 represent the liquid assets of the Colony against which the Colony had at the end of the year an overdraft of £50,000 with the Crown Agents.

IV.—PRODUCTION.

27. The natural resources of the Bahamas are marine and forest products.

28. Most important of the marine products is sponge. The principal sponging ground is that known as the " Mud " lying off the western shores of Andros Island. Of late years the output has been considerably diminished due, apparently, to depletion of the supply resulting in part from ruthless fishing, but more especially from wholesale destruction of sponges with each successive hurricane. Artificial sponge culture has been resorted to and has been productive of encouraging results around Andros and Exuma Islands.

29. Coarse salt is won from salt ponds on several islands, notably Ragged Island and Inagua. The salt industry was formerly of considerable value to the Colony, and after a long period during which exports fell to negligible quantities there has been during the year under review a promising revival of the trade.

30. *Fisheries.*—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being no attempt at export. The following are the names of those most commonly eaten :— Margate, Grouper, Jack, Hog Fish, Amber Fish, Yellow Tail, Snapper, Bone Fish, Turbot, Black Fish, King Fish, Grunt, Hound Fish, Goggle Eye, and Jew Fish. A factory has been established at Eleuthera for the canning and exporting of turtle and craw fish.

31. Conch and turtle shell find a limited and fluctuating market. The export of the latter is apparently on the increase and prevailing prices have been good.

32. There has been some slight revival of a shark skin industry which, after being started several years ago, had become extinct. While there is plenty of demand for the skin it is believed that the supply is too limited to establish an important trade.

33. *Forestry.*—The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of " pine barren." The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms, who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

34. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignum-vitae

and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as "horseflesh," is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of madera and cedar.

35. *Agriculture.*—The rocky nature of the land and the poverty of soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless the islands have in the past been highly productive of tropical cultivations and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land. Another contributory factor may be the havoc caused by hurricanes during the past four years. Every effort is being made to revive agricultural production and not without a measure of success; the year has in fact been notable as one in which agriculture has distinctly progressed.

36. Apart from staple foods, unfortunately produced in quantities insufficient to meet local demands, the principal cultivations of the present time are tomatoes and sisal. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicapped Bahamas produce during 1930 that for a time exportation to New York ceased altogether. On the other hand a lively exportation to Canada was developed and it seems probable that in future the bulk of the trade will be diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax. Efforts have also been made to establish the exportation of fresh vegetables to Canada.

37. Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, has declined until the value of exports represents less than a tenth of that of a decade earlier. The high cost of labour precludes the operation of plantations and decorticating factories; in consequence sisal cultivation is conducted entirely as a peasant industry and the fibre is prepared by hand. The product has been of inferior quality and the cultivation has suffered from neglect, but of late marked improvement has been noticeable, and the peasants are said to be realizing that sisal production affords an assured income even with low prices, while buyers are more alive to the fact that improvement in the quality of fibre shipped is the only means by which the industry can be preserved from complete extinction.

38. Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. Efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation and it is once more receiving attention.

39. As an indication of growing interest in farming may be taken the formation of various Farmers' Unions which have recently united in one Association. Gardening has also become an established and outstanding feature of the educational system of the Colony.

40. The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years :—

		1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Cascarilla Bark	lb.	28,554	31,920	76,728	77,124	89,600
	£	1,606	1,459	3,165	3,171	3,538
Tomatoes, raw	M Bushels	106	214	179	91	169
	£	26,516	92,497	96,078	47,759	89,336
Sisal Hemp	Tons	1,693	596	876	854	308
	£	40,082	10,632	15,187	15,679	5,153
Abaco pine timber ...	M feet	9,052	8,082	3,649	2,480	281
	£	48,958	49,854	18,541	19,319	5,206
Woods, other	Tons	127	76	92	128	69
	£	600	335	319	509	274
Shell, Tortoise	lb.	6,463	7,740	7,843	11,112	4,233
	£	12,093	13,421	13,439	17,408	7,003
Shell, Conch	No.	5,000	2,900	54,000	87,707	82,000
	£	365	225	311	414	354
Sponge	M. lb.	1,532	959	970	268	550
	£	134,234	109,203	115,178	106,984	75,351
Salt	M. Bushels	—	—	20	22	88
	£	—	—	242	245	876

V.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

41. The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	2,059,468	1,843,000	1,829,320	1,962,669	1,662,423
Exports	406,271	483,773	421,085	365,129	334,986
Total (excluding specie) ...	2,465,739	2,326,773	2,250,405	2,327,798	1,997,409

42. The values of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period were as follow :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	525,625	438,424	401,795	420,421	323,259
Canada	462,273	401,498	455,257	521,508	511,010
United States of America	880,645	767,894	731,684	740,865	606,144

The steady rise of the figures representing imports from Canada is noteworthy.

43. The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follow :—

	1926. £	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Spirits	750,448	614,372	672,629	743,784	675,639
Wines	44,688	38,826	48,780	64,362	42,115
Cordials and Liqueurs ...	9,871	11,664	12,739	13,297	9,535
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	24,787	20,926	19,820	22,570	19,187
Foodstuffs	406,896	376,023	380,984	387,929	292,643
Lumber and Shingles ...	55,024	52,990	42,809	54,044	44,692
Boots and Shoes	33,560	23,344	25,173	26,322	18,982
Cotton Manufactures ...	102,484	61,544	56,715	44,522	42,558
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of—	59,047	111,331	70,353	16,840	30,724
Oils	59,972	65,462	49,231	57,114	49,414
Motor cars, trucks and parts of—	40,097	26,237	30,625	30,741	18,016

44. The principal exports of local produce were :—

	Value. £
Tomatoes	89,336
Hemp	5,153
Cascarilla Bark	3,538
Lumber	5,206
Tortoise Shell	7,0[illegible]
Sponge	75,351

Of these products tomatoes and cascarilla bark were exported entirely to the United States of America and Canada; tortoise shell, with the exception of negligible quantities to Germany and the United States, went to the United Kingdom. About 75 per cent. of the hemp export went to the United States of America, 8 per cent. to Canada and the balance to Belgium, France and the United Kingdom. The lumber export was to Cuba and the United States of America. Sponge was exported to nine countries of Europe, to the United States of America, Canada, and Japan, the major portion, i.e., 60 per cent., going to the United States of America, France, and the United Kingdom.

45. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct mail service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a day's steam. In these circumstances it is explicable that there should be a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States. There is little trade with Jamaica and Bermuda, with which places there is direct communication; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of

trade with the Dominion is steadily increasing, particularly as regards importations of flour, sugar, oats, and potatoes, and recently the exportation of tomatoes.

There are several wholesale houses dealing in provisions and dry goods. One New York commission house has an agent in Nassau and keeps in stock a supply of flour, rice, hominy, and meal. The majority of the stores import direct either from the United States of America or the United Kingdom. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch in Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank which is operated under the Post Office Department.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

47. During the year 2,839 steamers and sailing vessels of a total of 2,982,768 tons entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number 1,579 vessels with a total tonnage of 2,814,681 called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Leyland and Harrison Lines and the Royal Mail Line. A weekly passenger and freight service to New York is maintained in the winter months by the Munson Line which is under contract with the Bahamas Government; a passenger service to Miami is maintained by the steamship line in the winter. The Canadian National Steamships vessels call at Nassau every two weeks. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 174 vessels of 145,282 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports.

A daily air service between Nassau and Miami with planes carrying 24 passengers has been maintained by The Pan American Airways Incorporated during the winter; during the summer months this service was operated weekly. The flight takes about 2 hours.

48. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular subsidized services by such vessels are maintained to all islands.

49. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks and navigation is difficult.

50. *Roads.*—In New Providence there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 1,099 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and most of the roads are impassable for vehicles. In accordance with the general policy

adopted with respect to development of the Out Islands, road development has been undertaken on one island at a time. A good earth road of about 70 miles in extent has been constructed and was completed during the year 1929 in the island of Eleuthera. It is hoped that such road construction will facilitate agricultural development.

51. *Post Office.*—The various postal services have been well maintained during the year. The cash-on-delivery system is in force in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass through New York as there is no direct mail service. Domestic parcel post was established some years ago, and all District Post Offices are money order offices.

52. The Telegraph Cable between Nassau and Jupiter, Florida, broke down some years ago and was abandoned owing to cost of upkeep, and the present wireless service substituted. This service, which is maintained by the Bahamas Government, consists of a central station of five kilowatts power spark and 1½ kilowatts, continuous wave, at Nassau, and ten stations of half of one kilowatt power and eight smaller stations each of 25 watts, continuous wave, at various Out Islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes, and for dissemination of storm warnings. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without any interruption, but it becomes yearly more evident that this installation is not capable of handling the growing volume of telegraph traffic and its replacement by a more efficient system has been under consideration.

53. *Telephones.*—In Nassau there is a Government telephone system with 1,106 subscribers. On Cat Island, Eleuthera, and Long Island, all the principal settlements are connected by telephone.

VII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

54. The law in force in the Colony consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the Local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

55. The Colony's armed Police Force consists of 125 rank and file and 4 officers. The force is stationed chiefly in Nassau, the Out Islands being policed mostly by local constables.

56. The central prison is in Nassau. All long term prisoners are sent to Nassau to undergo their sentences.

VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

57. No works of any consequence were undertaken during the year 1930. A drainage and sewerage system for Nassau, which was started in 1928, was completed in 1930. The principal works undertaken were restoration of public buildings and roads wrecked in the hurricane of 1929.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

58. The total number of cases treated by the Medical Department shows a considerable increase on that of the previous year. The death-rate has, however, decreased. Last year there were 280 deaths as compared with 232 this year, a decrease of 48.

59. There were no epidemics during the year, although there was a marked increase in typhoid during the month of June; this was accounted for by the heavy rains following a prolonged drought. The cases reported were all from homes still using well water. For the whole year the number of typhoid cases showed an increase of 16 over the year 1929, 79 cases being reported. 19 of the total number of cases occurred in the month of June. Tuberculosis and pellagra show a decrease from the previous year.

X.—EDUCATION.

60. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The average cost per pupil was £1 7s. 8d. and the total amount voted to the Board of Education was £18,500.

61. The Board maintained 55 schools, besides which grants-in-aid were paid to 51 other schools. The total pupil roll was 11,611. Owing to the scattered population this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate, not a few children are out of reach of any school, and in certain localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

62. In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training which is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. In seven schools carpentry is also taught and in 47 schools sewing lessons for the girl pupils have been introduced.

63. The Board employs seventy teachers, among whom are two from the United Kingdom and five from other West Indian Colonies. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has

proved a great handicap to education and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government.

XI.—LANDS.

64. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 601 square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 410 square miles of Grand Bahama which is being leased to the Grand Bahama Mercantile and Development Company, Limited.

65. The large area of land still remaining to the Crown comprises much swamp and rocky and barren land, the areas most suitable for agriculture having been acquired long ago by private persons.

66. It is the present policy of the Crown not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or cultivation, when an application for a grant in fee simple is considered. During the year 1930, 50 Crown Land Grants have been issued for a total area of 958 acres. During the land boom in 1924-26 the value of all lands increased considerably, especially on the island of New Providence on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony is situated. Since this period, though the value is still much above the pre-boom prices, yet it has decreased to a great extent. Crown Land in New Providence has been considered as of little agricultural value, and, at present, there is no great demand for residential sites.

67. In New Providence, Crown Land is usually sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value, and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase subject to permanent improvement. In case of sale of extensive tracts on larger islands, special terms are arranged.

XII.—LABOUR.

68. The lack of remunerative industries in the Colony and more particularly in the Out Islands has in the past induced a steady flow of emigration to Florida resulting in depopulation of certain of the Islands. The United States Immigration Law of 1914 put a stop to this migration, but ample employment was then obtainable in Nassau as a result of real estate development. The cessation of the land boom in 1926 considerably restricted this development, but the construction of large public works and road development on New Providence still afforded employment. Consequent

on the completion of these works there was much unemployment in recent years and as a result the people are coming to realize the need for a stable industry. Attention has been concentrated on agriculture as the abiding and natural occupation of the people and the Government has given every encouragement in this direction.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

69. Among the more important legislative Acts of the year may be mentioned the following :—

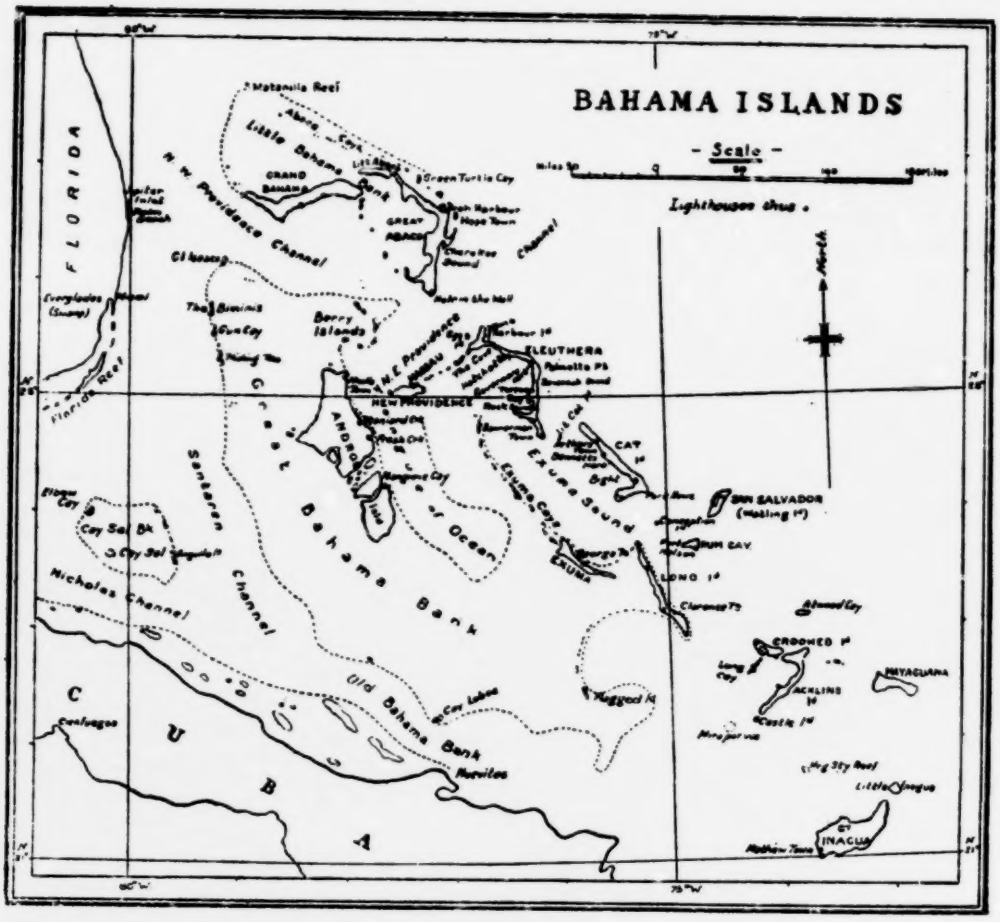
The Agricultural Instructors Act; by which provision was made for appointment of an Agriculturist.

The Harbour Dues Act for the regulating and levying of Harbour Dues and certain Wharfage, Pierage, and other Harbour Rates and Charges.

The Nassau Water and Sewerage Amendment Act which provides for Sewerage Rates for the Water-borne Sewerage System of Nassau.

C. DUNDAS,
Colonial Secretary.

NASSAU,
23*rd March*, 1931.



(10238—22) Wt. 2420—157 750 6/31 P.St. G.7/8

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6d. (7d.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6d. (8d.).

Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras (E.M.B. 13.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6d. (8d.).

Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).

Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1s. 2d. (1s. 5d.).

Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9d. (11d.).

Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 10d.).

Wool, a study of the fibre. September, 1929. (E.M.B. 21.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 11d.).

The Demand for Cheese in London. November, 1929. (E.M.B. 22.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

The Growing Dependence of British Industry upon Empire Markets. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 23.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Insect Infestation of Stored Cacao. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 24.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

Indian Sunn (or Sann) Hemp. Its Production and Utilization. February, 1930. (E.M.B. 25.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

British Industries and Empire Markets. March, 1930. (E.M.B. 26.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Cocoa. World Production and Trade. May, 1930. (E.M.B. 27.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1929 to May, 1930. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 28.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).

The Biological Control of Insect and Plant Pests. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 29.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 4d.).

Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927–29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 31.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.)

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include Postage.

OBTAINABLE FROM THE SALE OFFICES OF

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

AT THE ADDRESSES SHOWN ON THE FRONT COVER OF THIS REPORT, OR THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

'IRAQ.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1571

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF

BAHAMAS, 1931

(For Reports for 1929 and 1930 see Nos. 1477 (Price 1s. 0d.) and 1523 (Price 1s. 0d.) respectively)

Crown Copyright Reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast
or through any Bookseller

1932

Price 1s. 0d. Net

58-1571

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd 2883.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND IN THE COLONIAL SERVICES.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3554.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

REPORT OF THE SECOND IMPERIAL MYCOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, 1929. [Colonial No. 45.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

EMPIRE CONFERENCE OF SURVEY OFFICERS, 1928.
Report of Proceedings. [Colonial No. 41.] 12*s.* (12*s.* 6*d.*).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.
Report. [Cmd. 2387.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.
Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 9*d.*).

WEST AFRICA.
Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

PAPERS RELATING TO THE HEALTH AND PROGRESS OF NATIVE POPULATIONS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE EMPIRE.
[Colonial No. 65.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

HONG KONG CURRENCY.
Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, May, 1931. [Cmd. 3932.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA, Joint Select Committee on. H.C. 156.
Vol. I.—Report and Proceedings ... 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).
Vol. II.—Minutes of Evidence ... ... £1 10*s.* (£1 10*s.* 9*d.*).
Vol. III.—Appendices ... ... 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 11*d.*).

REPORT AND PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, JULY, 1931.
[Colonial No. 67.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

CONSTITUTION OF CEYLON. [Cmd. 3862.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).

INFORMATION AS TO THE CONDITION AND COST OF LIVING IN THE COLONIES, PROTECTORATES AND MANDATED TERRITORIES.
[Colonial No. 56.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF BRITISH GUIANA.
Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

MALTA ROYAL COMMISSION, 1931.
Report. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

'IRAQ.
Special Report by H.B.M. Government to the Council of the League of Nations on the Progress of, during the period 1920–1931.
[Colonial No. 58.] 5*s.* 6*d.* (5*s.* 11*d.*).

All prices are net, and those in parentheses include postage.

Obtainable from the Sale Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

At Addresses shown on the Front Cover, or through any Bookseller.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS FOR 1931.

CONTENTS.

Chapter.		Page.
I.	Geography, including Climate, and History	2
II.	Government	4
III.	Population	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	7
VI.	Production	7
VII.	Commerce	10
VIII.	Wages and the Cost of Living	11
IX.	Education and Welfare Institutions	12
X.	Communications and Transport	13
XI.	Banking, Currency, Weights, and Measures	15
XII.	Public Works	15
XIII.	Justice and Police	16
XIV.	Legislation	17
XV.	Public Finance and Taxation	17
	Sketch Map	19

CHAPTER I.

Geography, including Climate, and History.

1. *Geography.*—The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of islands, "cays", and rocks lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. In addition to the islands there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles. It is

said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but the honeycomb rock contains pockets of rich fertile soil.

3. There are no mountains and very few hills, but the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture not easily matched. It is probable that the islands were at one time thickly wooded, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros.

4. *Climate.*—The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September, and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. Although the heat during the summer months is trying, and the mosquitoes and sandflies are troublesome, the islands are never unhealthy.

5. *History.*—At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely, 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647 a Company of " Eleutherian Adventurers " was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third grant was made by Charles II vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

6. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was " roasted on a spit ". In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau and carried off the negro

slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

7. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

8. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

9. The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

10. " The Eleutherian Adventurers " who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647 brought with them the conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

11. The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills) and to reject altogether any bills, even those dealing with money.

12. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred last in June, 1928

CHAPTER III.

Population.

13. The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last census* (1931).
Abaco	776	4,233
Andros	1,600	7,071
Berry Islands	14	222
Bimini	8	736
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,527
Exuma and Cays	100	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Inagua	560	667
Long Island	130	4,515
Fortune Island Group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,238
Mayaguana	96	518
New Providence	58	19,756
Ragged Island Group	5	424
Rum Cay	29	252
Cat Island	160	3,959
San Salvador or Watling	60	675
Totals ...	4,396	59,818

14. The total population is thus approximately 60,000, mostly of African race. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony many of them being descendants of soldiers who settled in the Bahamas after the war of American Independence. English is the only language spoken.

Births.—There were 1,897 births in the Colony during the year or 32.0 per 1,000.

Deaths.—There were 1,076 deaths in the Colony during the year or 18.0 per 1,000.

Marriages.—There were 447 marriages during the year in the whole Colony.

Infantile Mortality.—Figures are only available for New Providence where there were 64 deaths under one year or 131.9 per 1,000.

Emigration and Immigration.—6,903 persons left the Colony and 7,136 were admitted during the year, of which a large proportion consisted of winter visitors.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

15. The climate of the Colony is most conducive to good health, and Nassau, the capital, can boast of an excellent pipe-borne water-supply and an up-to-date sewerage system, as well as an ice plant. The city water and the ice manufactured from it are analysed monthly and have shown a high bacteriological standard. There have been no epidemics during the year and only 31 cases of typhoid reported as against 79 for the previous year. Malaria is not common in Nassau and practically all cases are imported from other countries or from the southern islands of the Colony. The Infant Welfare Association, which is financed by public subscriptions and an annual contribution from the Government, is doing excellent work. It employs two trained nurses and holds three clinics a week which are attended by the Chief Medical Officer and two private practitioners. Much needed work is also being done by the Pre-natal Clinic which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Mission. The Government expended a total sum of £32,711 on its Medical and Sanitary Departments during the year 1930-31. The Medical Department has a staff of three Medical Officers and four Nurses at the Bahamas General Hospital in Nassau and four District Medical Officers at the Out Island stations. The Department operates a General Hospital, a Lunatic Asylum, an Infirmary, a Venereal Clinic, and a Leper Compound. The last named is situated well away from any inhabited part of the island (New Providence).

16. The following is a table of the principal groups of diseases treated at the Bahamas General Hospital during the year, together with the mortality arising from these diseases :—

Disease.	*Number of Cases.*	*Number of Deaths.*
Typhoid fever	28	2
Tuberculosis	66	28
Venereal diseases	125	12
Pellagra	40	7
Diseases of the heart (mitral)	43	19
Diarrhœa and enteritis under two years ...	58	9
Puerperal eclampsia	13	—
Diseases of infancy	47	20

The above diseases occurred chiefly among the wage-earning population. There are no estates, mines, or factories in the Colony.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

17. There is a great need for improvement in the houses of a large proportion of the wage-earning population, numbers of which are so poorly constructed that they are unable to withstand a hurricane. With a view to replacing houses which have been destroyed by hurricanes and improving their type and standard, the Government has for the past two years provided funds for building houses for the poorer people on the hire-purchase system. To date, 104 houses have been constructed, costing from £45 to £75 each, payments on account of which are required to be made weekly over a period of four years by the occupants. The average payment works out to about 5s. a week.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

18. The natural resources of the Bahamas are marine and forest products.

19. Most important of the marine products is sponge. Of late years the output has been considerably diminished, due, apparently, to depletion of the supply resulting in part from ruthless fishing, but more especially from wholesale destruction of sponges with each successive hurricane. Artificial sponge culture has been resorted to and has been productive of encouraging results around Andros and Exuma Islands. Coarse salt is won from salt ponds

on several islands, notably Ragged Island and Inagua. The salt industry was formerly of considerable value to the Colony.

20. *Fisheries.*—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export. A factory has been established at Eleuthera for the canning and exporting of turtle and crawfish, and a company located at Bimini has done a lively export trade in crawfish from around Bimini and Andros.

21. Conch and turtle shell find a limited and fluctuating market.

22. *Forestry.*—The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine-tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land commonly referred to by the suggestive name of " pine barren." The pine-trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms, who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

23. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in lignum vitae and logwood. Sabicu, locally known as " horseflesh," is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of madeira and cedar.

24. *Agriculture.*—The rocky nature of the land and the poverty of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the islands have in the past been highly productive of tropical cultivations and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land. Another contributory factor may have been the havoc caused by the hurricanes during the four years 1926-29.

25. Apart from staple foods, unfortunately produced in quantities insufficient to meet local demands, the principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market, where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicap Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now practically ceased. A lively exportation to Canada was developed in 1931 and it seems probable that the bulk of the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax.

26. Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, has practically become extinct. The high cost of labour precludes the operation of plantations and decorticating factories, and the salt-water-retted product has finally proved to be unfit for sale.

27. Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. Efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation and it is once more receiving attention.

28. The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years :—

		1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Cascarilla bark	lb.	31,920	76,728	77,124	89,600	31,360
	£	1,459	3,165	3,171	3,538	1,704
Tomatoes, raw	M. Bushels	214	179	91	169	99
	£	92,497	96,078	47,759	89,336	51,502
Sisal hemp	Tons	596	876	854	308	21
	£	10,632	15,187	15,679	5,153	244
Abaco pine timber ...	M. feet	8,082	3,649	2,480	281	2,010
	£	49,854	18,541	19,319	5,206	10,015
Woods, other	Tons	76	92	128	69	29
	£	335	319	509	274	110
Shell, tortoise	lb.	7,740	7,843	11,112	4,233	4,978
	£	13,421	13,439	17,408	7,003	6,165
Shell, conch	No.	2,900	54,000	87,707	82,000	58,869
	£	225	311	414	354	396
Sponge	M. lb.	959	970	268	550	684
	£	109,203	115,178	106,984	75,351	85,340
Salt	M. Bushels	—	20	22	88	53
	£	—	242	245	876	970

29. The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation and the quantity of live stock in the Colony :—

Crops.	*Acres.*	*Live stock.*	*Number.*
Citrus	42	Horses	1,944
Coco-nuts ...	560	Horned cattle ...	2,050
Onions	63	Sheep	15,675
Pineapples ...	64	Goats	6,266
Sisal	7,146	Swine	2,930
Sugar canes ...	80	Poultry	3,192
Tomatoes ...	2,019		
Other products ...	11,673		
Total ...	21,647	Total ...	32,057

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

30. The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,843,000	1,829,320	1,962,669	1,662,423	1,249,827
Exports	483,773	421,085	365,129	334,986	287,562
Total (excluding specie) ...	2,326,773	2,250,405	2,327,798	1,997,409	1,537,389

31. The values of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period were as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	438,424	401,795	420,421	323,259	264,880
Canada	401,498	455,257	521,508	511,010	359,772
United States of America	767,894	731,684	740,865	606,144	438,596

The steady rise of figures representing imports from Canada up to the year 1930 is noteworthy.

32. The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	614,372	672,629	743,784	675,639	519,896
Wines	38,826	48,780	64,362	42,115	21,991
Cordials and Liqueurs ...	11,664	12,739	13,297	9,535	7,071
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	20,926	19,820	22,570	19,187	17,664
Food-stuffs	376,023	380,984	387,929	292,643	236,621
Lumber and Shingles ...	52,990	42,809	54,044	44,692	16,242
Boots and Shoes	23,344	25,173	26,322	18,982	14,550
Cotton Manufactures ...	61,544	56,715	44,522	42,558	35,742
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of—	111,331	70,353	16,840	30,724	19,709
Oils	65,462	49,231	57,114	49,414	42,641
Motor cars, trucks, and parts	26,237	30,625	30,741	18,016	12,801

33. The principal exports of local produce were :—

	Value. £
Tomatoes	51,502
Cascarilla bark	1,704
Lumber	10,015
Tortoise shell	6,165
Sponge	85,340

Of these products tomatoes and cascarilla bark were exported entirely to the United States of America and Canada; tortoise shell,

with the exception of negligible quantities to Germany and the United States, went to the United Kindom. The lumber export was to Cuba and the United States of America. Sponge was exported to eight countries of Europe, and to the United States of America, Canada, and Japan, the major portion, i.e., 60 per cent., going to the United States of America, France, and the United Kingdom.

34. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct mail service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a day's steaming. In these circumstances it is explicable that there has been a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States in the past; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion is steadily increasing, and of late, owing to currency conditions, there has been a strong tendency to import from the United Kingdom. Generally speaking, increasing interest in trade with the Empire has manifested itself, and only the difficulties of communication retard progress in this direction.

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and the Cost of Living.

35. *Wages.*—The following are the wages paid to Government employees :—

	Per Day.
	Shs.
Blacksmiths	18
Carpenters	10 to 15
Labourers	3 to 5½
Masons	10 to 15
Painters	5 to 9
Plumbers	10 to 15
Truck drivers	7 to 8

Government and private employees usually work 8½ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive from 10s. to 20s. per week and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 2s. 6d. to 5s. a day. The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, and sugar, and he spends about 1s. 6d. a day on his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

36. *Average cost of living for Officials.*—The cost of living in New Providence would be the same whether the officials lived in the town (Nassau) or in the country. In any case the cost is very high. Only wealthy persons could live in the first-class hotels, which are open only in the winter. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding-house for £6 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £450 a year. Under similar conditions a married man with his wife might live for about £600 a year. A bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case, without children, a married couple should be able to live on about £600 a year. In the Out Islands there are no hotels or boarding-houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain. No officers from England are likely, however, to be stationed in the Out Islands.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

37. *Education.*—Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The average cost per pupil on the roll was £1 16s. 6d., and the total amount voted to the Board of Education was £18,100 during the year 1931.

The Board maintained 55 schools, besides which, grants-in-aid were paid to 55 other schools. The total pupil roll was 11,294. Owing to the scattered population this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate; not a few children are out of reach of any school, and in certain localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

38. In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training which is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. In 49 schools sewing lessons for the girl pupils have been introduced.

39. The Board employs seventy-one teachers, among whom are five from other West Indian Colonies. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government.

40. *Welfare Institutions.*—An Infirmary and Lunatic and Leper Asylums are maintained by the Government, under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital, the inmates of which are

taken care of free of charge. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it and free rations are issued to 400 paupers in the Colony. The Infant Welfare Association and the Pre-natal Clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, a subsidiary of the Nassau Improvement Association, which has up to the present been supported entirely by public subscriptions, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks and housemaids, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service.

41. There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many Friendly Societies existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are five cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

42. During the year, 1,809 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total of 2,801,827 tons, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number, 999 vessels, with a total tonnage of 2,655,489, called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Leyland and Harrison Lines and the Royal Mail Line. A weekly passenger and freight service to New York is maintained in the winter months by the Munson Line which is under contract with the Bahamas Government; a passenger service to Miami is maintained by this steamship line in the winter. The Canadian National Steamships vessels call at Nassau every two weeks. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 151 vessels of 120,740 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports.

43. A daily air service between Nassau and Miami with planes carrying 24 passengers has been maintained by the Pan-American Airways Incorporated during the winter.

44. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular subsidized services by such vessels are maintained to all islands.

45. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade and others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

46. *Roads.*—In New Providence there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 1,111 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and most of the roads are impassable for vehicles. In accordance with the general policy adopted with respect to development of the Out Islands, road development has been undertaken on one island at a time. A good earth road of about 70 miles in extent has been constructed and was completed during the year 1929 in the island of Eleuthera. It is hoped that such road construction will facilitate agricultural development.

47. *Post Office.*—The various postal services have been well maintained during the year. The cash-on-delivery system is in force in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass through the United States of America, as there is no direct mail service. Domestic parcel post was established some years ago, and all District Post Offices are money-order offices. The issue of money orders on United States post offices was discontinued in September owing to the rise and fluctuations in exchange, and has not yet been resumed.

48. Telegraph communication is effected by wireless service maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, New Providence, with eighteen stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

49. The Nassau station maintains continuous watch on the following wave-lengths :—600 metres (500 KCS), 630 metres (475.9 KCS), and 700 metres (428.3 KCS) ICW and CW for marine communication; 2,100 metres (142.8 KCS), 2,400 metres (124.9 KCS) for long-wave marine work; 2,800 metres (107.1 KCS) CW and 3,000 metres (99.94 KCS) for alternative point-to-point service. High frequency communication is established on 96 metres (3,126 KCS), 90 metres (3,331 KCS), 52 metres (5,769 KCS). High frequency transmitters have also been supplied to the ten most important of the Out Islands working on 52 metres (5,769 KCS), in addition to their spark equipment on 600 metres (500 KCS), which is now only kept as emergency equipment. The remaining eight Out Island stations communicate on 450 metres (666.3 KCS) low power CW.

50. The Out Island stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes and for the dissemination of storm warnings.

51. *Telephones.*—In Nassau, there is a telephone system owned and operated by the Bahamas Government with 1,150 subscribers. Of the other islands of the Bahamas Group, Eleuthera has 65 miles

of telephone line, Cat Island 30 miles of line, and Long Island 45 miles of line, connecting the principal settlements to the wireless stations on the islands in question.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights, and Measures.

52. *Banking.*—The only bank doing business in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November, 1931, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £551,052. The Post Office Savings Bank had at the end of June, 1931, 5,558 depositors with deposits to their credit amounting to £55,874.

53. *Currency.*—The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declares British sterling to be the money of account and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £110,000 in local Government currency notes of 4s., 10s., and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £55,000 in British silver coin. United States currency is not legal tender in the Colony but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

54. *Weights and Measures.*—By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

55. The Public Works Department superintends the maintenance and construction of all public works on behalf of the Public Board of Works. This Board, which consists of five members, is appointed annually by the Governor, and all funds for public works are voted to it by the Legislature. The Department also supervises the carrying out of work for other Public Boards and for the Government.

The following are some of the most important works of construction carried out by the Public Works Department during the year.

56. *Buildings, etc.*—The completion of Government House Servants' quarters, and Ball-room.

The re-roofing of the Commandant's quarters and Western Police Station.

The re-roofing of Prince George's Wharf shed.

The construction of sheds at Public Works Depot in replacement of those lost in fire.

Plans, specifications, and supervision of the Sandilands School and the Western Preparatory School for the Board of Education.

Plans, specifications, and supervision of the construction of the New Native Nurses' quarters in the Bahamas General Hospital grounds.

57. *Roads.*—New road construction work includes the completion of approximately $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles of a $4\frac{3}{4}$-mile stretch of roadway in the vicinity of Lake Cunningham. The reconstruction of East Street was the second largest work, and numerous stretches of different roadways were constructed and treated with asphalt.

58. *Sea Walls.*—Quite extensive work of this kind had to be carried out on the Western Road for protective purposes due to the damages done to the road by the 1929 hurricane.

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

59. The law in force in the Colony is the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the Local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

60. The Colony's armed Police Force consists of 125 rank and file and 4 officers. The force is stationed chiefly in Nassau, the Out Islands being policed mostly by local constables.

61. The central prison is in Nassau. All long-term prisoners are sent to Nassau to undergo their sentences.

62. The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being gastro-intestinal and pulmonary.

63. Juvenile offenders are sent to the Industrial School, under the management of a Visiting Committee of three members, where they are taught agriculture and other pursuits which will be of practical use on their discharge.

64. The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1931 :—

Imprisoned	270
Whipped	97
Fined	1,567
Bound over or otherwise disposed of	225
Discharged	392
Committed for trial in Superior Court	44
Total	2,595

CHAPTER XIV.

Legislation.

65. There are no laws or regulations in force in the Colony relating to labour, except The Sponge and Turtle Fisheries Act which prohibits the employment of children under 13 years of age in these industries.

66. The following are the principal laws passed during the year 1931 :—

Chapter 1.—The Tariff Act, 1931. Revising the customs tariff and imposing a tariff on agricultural products in order to protect local products.

Chapter 15.—The Sisal Inspection and Grading Amendment Act, 1931. To provide for the better grading and packing of sisal.

Chapter 16.—The Agricultural and Marine Products Board Amendment Act, 1931. To provide for the better grading, packing, and inspection of fruit and vegetables intended for export.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

67. The increased trade of the Colony has been reflected in the increased revenue of the last decade. In 1919 the total receipts amounted to no more than £81,000; in 1923 they had swollen to £553,000, since when the annual revenue has stood between £450,000 and £500,000. On the other hand, expenditure has increased in proportion and has even exceeded revenue.

68. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1926-27	531,235	474,653
1927-28	485,319	672,986
1928-29	517,211	673,803
1929-30	556,799	578,584
1930-31	455,370	426,900
	£2,545,934	£2,826,926

69. The actual excess of expenditure over revenue for this period was £181,386. This excess is due to large public works, such as the dredging of the harbour, the building of a new wharf and transit shed, and the installation of a water-supply and sewerage system, the cost of which has been paid for partly out of revenue and partly by advances made by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. Revenue is now being derived from the improved harbour and wharfage accommodation and from the water-supply and the sewerage works.

70. The Public Debt on 31st March, 1931, was £180,000, the whole of which amount was raised locally by sale of debentures. Provision is made by law for annual contribution from the revenue for a sinking fund for the redemption of these debentures.

71. Investments in England in Trustee Securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. and amounting at the end of the financial year to £200,000 represent the liquid assets of the Colony.

72. Apart from Real Property Tax, which only yielded £2,552 13s. 3d. during the year, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from customs duties, port, wharf and harbour dues, and post, telegraph and electric power receipts. There are no excise duties in force in the Colony. Stamp duties are imposed on instruments used in civil proceedings in the Supreme Court or in commercial or other transactions and based on the value of the transaction.

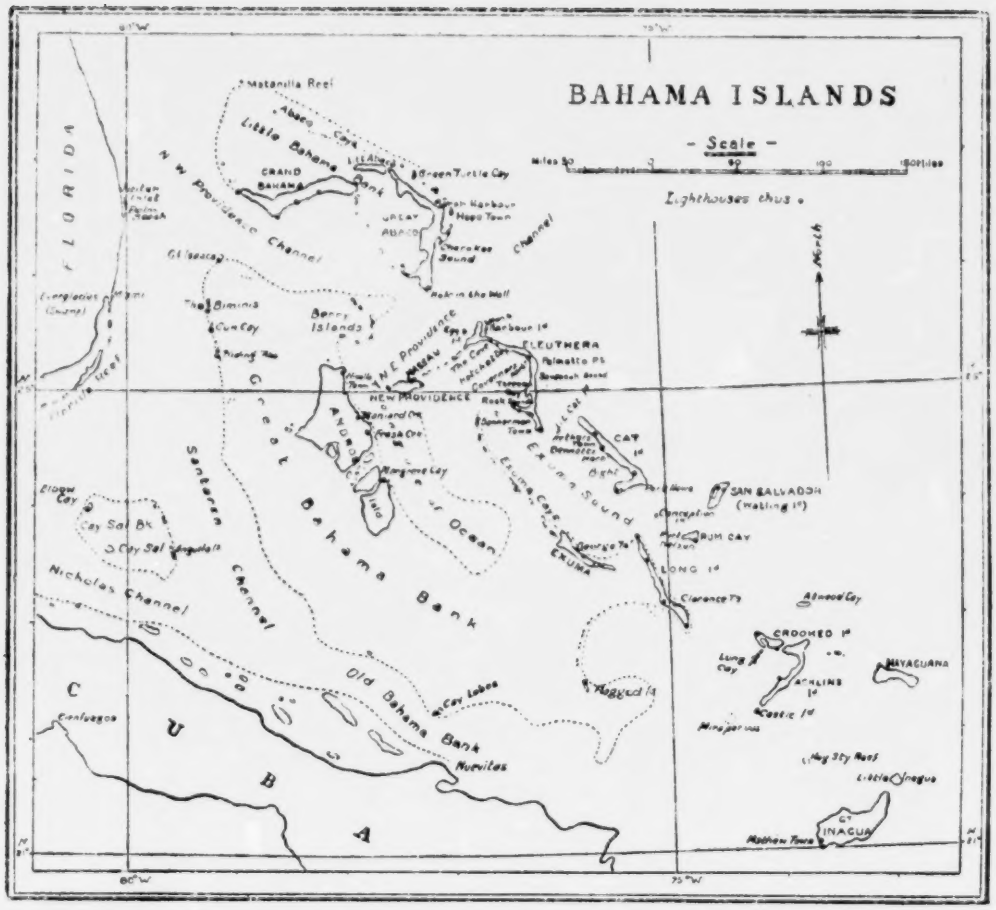
73. The Tariff Act, assented to on 28th May, 1931, provides a customs revenue of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* on most imports, though there are some items specifically taxed, while alcoholic beverages and tobacco pay a much higher rate. A sliding scale on agricultural products devised to protect articles capable of production in the Colony is included. There is an export tax on pineapple and sisal plants, wrecked goods, and articles imported for a temporary purpose and exempted from duty under certain conditions. Chief among the exemptions from duty are printed books, flying machines, and essentials to agriculture and the manufacture of native products. A list of prohibited imports injurious to health and morals is included.

74. The Act expires with the 1932 Session of the Legislature.

75. The Imperial Preference Act gives a British preference varying from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. on goods, other than alcoholic, complying with stipulated conditions.

CHARLES DUNDAS,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,
23*rd April*, 1932.



(15374—28) Wt. 5777—380 750 7/32 P. St. G 7/8

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1931. Cmd. 3914. 9*d*. (10*d*.).

The Growing Dependence of British Industry upon Empire Markets. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 23.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

Insect Infestation of Stored Cacao. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 24.) 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.).

British Industries and Empire Markets. March, 1930. (E.M.B. 26.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927-29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 31.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

Report on the Cultivation, Treatment and Prospects of Rice in British Guiana. (E.M.B. 32.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).

The Dissemination of Research Results among Agricultural Producers. (E.M.B. 33.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 4*d*.).

The Demand for Empire Butter. (E.M.B. 34.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

The Relative Values of Cod Liver Oils from various sources. (E.M.B. 35.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 4*d*.).

The Behaviour and Diseases of the Banana in Storage and Transport. (E.M.B. 36.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).

The Demand for Canned Fruits. (E.M.B. 37.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Report of Proceedings of the Imperial Wool Research Conference, 1930. 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).

Fruit Supplies in 1930. (E.M.B. 38.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).

Changes in the Demand for Butter. (E.M.B. 39.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 1d.).

Report on Development of Agriculture in the Bahamas. (E.M.B. 40.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1930, to May, 1931. (E.M.B. 41.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).

A Preliminary Report on an investigation into the Control of West Indian Insect Pests. (E.M.B. 42.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 5*d*.).

Recent Advances in Pasture Management. (E.M.B. 43.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Dairy Research. (E.M.B. 44.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Transport and Storage of Bananas with special reference to Chilling. (E.M.B. 45.) 1*s*. (1*s* 2*d*.).

British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery. 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

Wool Quality: A Study of the Influence of various contributory factors, their significance and the technique of their measurement. Cloth. £1 1*s*. (£1 1*s*. 9*d*.).

Australian and New Zealand Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the deterioration in transit of Imported Australian and New Zealand Fruit, 1927–30. (E.M.B 46.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Banana Breeding at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. (E.M.B. 47.) 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Imperial Sugar Cane Research Conference, 1931. Report of Proceedings. 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 11*d*.).

All Prices are net. Those in parentheses include Postage.

OBTAINABLE FROM THE SALE OFFICES OF

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

AT THE ADDRESSES SHOWN ON THE FRONT COVER OF THIS REPORT,

OR THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN,
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

'IRAQ.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1614

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF

BAHAMAS, 1932

(For Reports for 1930 and 1931 see Nos. 1523 and 1571 respectively, price 1s. 0d. each)

C.O. 66/1

Crown Copyright Reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh 2
York Street, Manchester 1; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast
or through any Bookseller

1933

Price 1s. 0d. Net

58-1614

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE AT OTTAWA, 1932.
Summary of Proceedings and Copies of Trade Agreements. [Cmd. 4174.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 4175.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*)

CONFERENCE OF EMPIRE SURVEY OFFICERS, 1931.
Report of Proceedings. [Colonial No. 70.] £1 (£1 0*s.* 9*d.*).

SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND IN THE COLONIAL SERVICES.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3551.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage-Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission to. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.
Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 9*d.*).

PAPERS RELATING TO THE HEALTH AND PROGRESS OF NATIVE POPULATIONS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE EMPIRE.
[Colonial No. 65.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES, PROTECTORATES, MANDATED TERRITORIES, &c.
[Colonial No. 72.] 5*s.* 6*d.* (5*s.* 11*d.*).

HONG KONG CURRENCY.
Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, May, 1931. [Cmd. 3932.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA, Joint Select Committee on. H.C. 156.
Vol. I.—Report and Proceedings ... 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).
Vol. II.—Minutes of Evidence ... ... £1 10*s.* (£1 10*s.* 9*d.*).
Vol. III.—Appendices ... ... 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 11*d.*).

CONSTITUTION OF CEYLON. [Cmd. 3862.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).

INFORMATION AS TO THE CONDITION AND COST OF LIVING IN THE COLONIES, PROTECTORATES AND MANDATED TERRITORIES.
[Colonial No. 56.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF BRITISH GUIANA.
Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

MALTA ROYAL COMMISSION, 1931.
Report. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

'IRAQ.
Special Report by H.B.M. Government to the Council of the League of Nations on the Progress of, during the period 1920–1931.
[Colonial No. 58.] 5*s.* 6*d.* (5*s.* 11*d.*).
Report on the Administration of, 1931. [Colonial No. 74.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 8*d.*).

REPORT BY H.B.M. GOVERNMENT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN FOR THE YEAR 1931.
[Colonial No. 75.] 8*s.* (8*s.* 4*d.*).

All prices are net, and those in parentheses include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

At the Addresses on the Front Cover of this report

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS FOR 1932

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate, and History	2
II.	Government	4
III.	Population	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	7
VI.	Production	8
VII.	Commerce	10
VIII.	Wages and Cost of Living	12
IX.	Education and Welfare Institutions	12
X.	Communications and Transport	13
XI.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures	15
XII.	Public Works	16
XIII.	Justice and Police	16
XIV.	Legislation	17
XV.	Public Finance and Taxation	18
	Appendix—Bahamas Publications	20
	Sketch Map.	

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate, and History.

Geography.—The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of islands, " cays ", and rocks lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. In addition to the islands there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles. It is

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
AUG 2 1933
DIVISION OF DOCUMENTS

said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but the honeycomb rock contains pockets of rich fertile soil.

3. There are no mountains and very few hills, but the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture not easily matched. It is probable that the islands were at one time thickly wooded, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros.

4. *Climate.*—The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September, and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. Although the heat during the summer months is trying, and the mosquitoes and sandflies are troublesome, the islands are never unhealthy.

5. *History.*—At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely, 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647 a Company of " Eleutherian Adventurers " was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

6. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba. In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing

to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

7. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

8. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

9. The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

10. " The Eleutherian Adventurers " who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647 brought with them a conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

11. The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills) and to reject altogether any bills, even those dealing with money.

12. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred last in June, 1928.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

13. The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last census* (1931).
Abaco	776	4,233
Andros	1,600	7,071
Berry Islands	14	222
Bimini	8	736
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,527
Exuma and Cays	100	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Inagua	560	667
Long Island	130	4,515
Fortune Island Group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,238
Mayaguana	96	518
New Providence	58	19,756
Ragged Island Group	5	424
Rum Cay	29	252
Cat Island	160	3,959
San Salvador or Watling	60	675
Totals ...	4,396	59,808

The estimated population of the whole Colony on 31st December, 1932, was 61,812.

14. The total population is thus approximately 60,000, mostly of African race. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony many of them being descendants of soldiers who settled in the Bahamas after the War of American Independence. English is the only language spoken.

Births.—There were 2,251 births in the Colony during the the year, or 37.6 per 1,000.

Deaths.—There were 1,226 deaths in the Colony during the year, or 20.5 per 1,000.

Marriages.—There were 462 marriages during the year in the whole Colony.

Infantile Mortality.—Figures are only available for New Providence, where there were 59 deaths under one year, or 127.5 per 1,000.

Emigration and Immigration.—4,714 persons left the Colony and 4,851 were admitted during the year, of which a large proportion consisted of winter visitors.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

15. The climate of the Colony is most conducive to good health, and Nassau, the capital, can boast of an excellent pipe-borne water-supply and an up-to-date sewerage system, as well as an ice plant. The city water and the ice manufactured from it are analysed monthly and have shown a high bacteriological standard. There have been no epidemics during the year and only 29 cases of typhoid reported as against 31 for the previous year. Malaria is not common in Nassau and practically all cases are imported from other countries or from the southern islands of the Colony. The Infant Welfare Association, which is financed by public subscriptions and an annual contribution from the Government, is doing excellent work. It employs two trained nurses and holds three clinics a week which are attended by a private practitioner. Much needed work is also done by the Pre-natal Clinic which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Mission. The Government expended a total sum of £32,409 19s. 1d. on its Medical and Sanitary Departments during the year 1931-32. The Medical Department has a staff of three Medical Officers and four Nurses at the Bahamas General Hospital in Nassau and four District Medical Officers at the Out Island stations. The Department operates a General Hospital, a Lunatic Asylum, an Infirmary,

a Venereal Clinic, a Dental Clinic, and a Leper Compound. The last named is situated well away from any inhabited part of the island (New Providence).

16. The following is a table of the principal groups of diseases treated at the Bahamas General Clinic during the year, together with the mortality arising from these diseases :—

Disease.	*Number of Cases.*	*Number of Deaths.*
Typhoid fever	29	3
Tuberculosis	34	9
Venereal diseases	101	7
Pellagra	25	3
Diseases of the heart (mitral)	33	10
Diarrhœa and enteritis under two years ...	29	5
Puerperal eclampsia	6	2
Diseases of infancy	26	3

The above diseases occurred chiefly among the wage-earning population. There are no estates, mines, or factories in the Colony.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

17. Wage-earners are found almost only in Nassau. Their housing is most usually of the type known as " shack ", i.e., a wooden two- or three-roomed structure with separate outside kitchen and pit-latrine and devoid of other sanitary installations. Water is most generally supplied by wells. Some of them are owned by the occupants; others are rented, the rate being 4s. to 8s. a week. In many cases these shacks are overcrowded, whether by one family or persons of several families, and as their habit is to close all doors and windows at night, the atmosphere in which they sleep is scarcely conducive to good health. Such houses are invariably built on separate plots, so that there is no crowding of houses or slum conditions.

18. The most urgent need is the replacement of numerous dwellings of such poor construction that they are incapable of withstanding hurricane winds of any great velocity. In an effort to improve on this condition, over 100 houses of special hurricane-proof design were built at public expense in replacement of houses destroyed in the hurricane of September, 1929. The cost of these houses, varying from £45 to £75, was made recoverable by weekly payments to be spread over four years, and it was hoped that the receipts would be available for further construction of houses for the wage-earning class, but the collection of instalments has proved difficult, and the scheme as originally envisioned cannot be developed until a substantial proportion of the capital outlay has been recovered. No building societies exist in the Colony.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

19. The natural resources of the Colony are marine, soil, and forest products. Excepting for forest exploitation on Abaco Island, production is conducted individually, there being neither factories, plantations, nor mines anywhere in the Colony.

20. Of the products of the Colony, sponge, tomatoes, shell, salt, and timber are exported; other commodities are at the present time produced only for local consumption. No actual distinction exists between cultivation or other forms of production by persons of European and non-European descent. The former are principally engaged in commerce and the latter mainly in production; but persons of both races may be found engaged in one or the other of these pursuits, and such limited agricultural employment as exists is not restricted to one race.

21. Most important of the marine products is sponge. Of late years the output has been considerably diminished, due, apparently, to depletion of the supply resulting in part from ruthless fishing, but more especially from wholesale destruction of sponges with each successive hurricane. Artificial sponge culture has been resorted to and has been productive of encouraging results around Andros and Exuma Islands.

22. Coarse salt was formerly won in considerable quantities from salt-ponds in several islands. Efforts are now being made to revive the trade and to produce a cleaner grade of salt which will sell more readily than the quality hitherto produced.

23. *Fisheries.*—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export. A factory has been established at Eleuthera for the canning and exporting of turtle and crawfish, and a company located at Bimini has exported crawfish, though in diminished quantities. Shark fishery has been practised spasmodically for some years, and at the close of the year this industry was about to be expanded and organized by a foreign company. Conch and tortoise shell find a limited and fluctuating market.

24. *Agriculture.*—The rocky nature of the land and the paucity of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the islands have in the past been highly productive of tropical cultivations and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land. Another contributory factor may have been the havoc caused by the hurricanes during the seven years 1926-32.

25. Apart from staple foods, unfortunately produced in quantities insufficient to meet local demands, the principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicaps Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now ceased; but exportation to Canada was developed in 1931 and the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax.

26. Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, has practically become extinct. The high cost of labour precludes the operation of plantations and decorticating factories, and the salt-water-retted product has finally proved to be unfit for sale.

27. Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. Efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation and it is once more receiving attention.

28. Stock and poultry raising is conducted on a very limited scale for local consumption, but the output is of poor grade and insufficient to supply local demand.

The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years :—

		1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Cascarilla bark	lb.	76,728	77,124	89,600	31,360	24,528
	£	3,165	3,171	3,538	1,704	1,464
Tomatoes, raw	M. Bushels	179	91	169	99	165
	£	96,078	47,759	89,336	51,502	75,311
Sisal hemp	Tons	876	854	308	21	81
	£	15,187	15,679	5,153	244	484
Abaco pine timber ...	M. feet	3,649	2,480	281	2,010	5,466
	£	18,541	19,319	5,206	10,015	26,799
Woods, other	Tons	92	128	69	29	51
	£	319	509	274	110	261
Shell, tortoise	lb.	7,843	11,112	4,233	4,978	5,524
	£	13,439	17,408	7,003	6,165	6,677
Shell, conch	No.	54,000	87,707	82,000	58,869	38,603
	£	311	414	354	396	281
Sponge	M. lb.	970	268	550	684	683
	£	115,178	106,984	75,351	85,340	77,992
Salt	M. Bushels	20	22	88	53	7
	£	242	245	876	970	126

29. The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation and the quantity of live stock in the Colony :—

Crops.	*Acres.*	*Live stock.*	*Number.*
Citrus	114	Horses	1,933
Coconuts ...	877	Horned cattle ...	1,853
Onions	28	Sheep	17,541
Pineapples ...	39	Goats	8,340
Sisal	4,390	Swine	2,488
Tomatoes ...	2,627	Poultry	3,423
Other products ...	14,974		
Total ...	23,049	Total ...	33,578

30. It is difficult to assess the number of persons engaged in agriculture. Practically everyone not engaged in commerce cultivates in a small way for his own needs. On the other hand, comparatively few live solely by cultivation of the soil.

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

31. The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,829,320	1,962,669	1,662,423	1,249,827	940,063
Exports	421,085	365,129	334,986	287,562	263,886
Total (excluding specie) ...	2,250,405	2,327,798	1,997,409	1,537,389	1,203,949

32. The values of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period were as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	401,795	420,421	323,259	264,880	228,336
Canada	455,257	521,508	511,010	359,772	221,444
United States of America	731,684	740,865	606,144	438,596	334,501

The steady rise of figures representing imports from Canada up to the year 1930 is noteworthy.

33. The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	672,629	743,784	675,639	519,896	275,926
Wines	48,780	64,362	42,115	21,991	14,226
Cordials and Liqueurs ...	12,739	13,297	9,535	7,071	4,670
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	19,820	22,570	19,187	17,664	17,336
Food-stuffs	380,984	387,929	292,643	236,621	240,569
Lumber and Shingles ...	42,809	54,044	44,692	16,242	12,239
Boots and Shoes	25,173	26,322	18,982	14,550	13,586
Cotton Manufactures ...	56,715	44,522	42,558	35,742	34,559
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of.	70,353	16,840	30,724	19,709	7,089
Oils	49,231	57,114	49,414	42,641	39,018
Motor cars, trucks, and parts.	30,625	30,741	18,016	12,801	7,345

34. The princi[illegible] exports of local produce were :—

	Quantities	*Value*
		£
Tomatoes (M. Bush.)	165	75,311
Cascarilla bark (cwt.)	219	1,464
Lumber (M. feet)	5,466	26,799
Tortoise shell (lb.)	5,524	6,677
Sponge (M. lb.)	430	78,202

Of these products, cascarilla bark (124 cwt.) was exported entirely to the United States of America and United Kingdom (95 cwt.), tomatoes to Canada, and tortoiseshell to the United Kingdom. The lumber export was to Cuba, Jamaica, Porto Rico, Trinidad, and Turks Island. Sponge was exported to eight countries of Europe and to the United States of America, Canada, and Japan, the major portion, i.e., 65 per cent., going to the United States of America, France, and the United Kingdom.

35. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct mail service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a day's steaming. In these circumstances it is explicable that there has been a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States in the past; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion has steadily increased, and of late, owing to currency conditions and tariff preferences there has been a strong tendency to import from the United Kingdom. Generally speaking, increasing interest in trade with the Empire has manifested itself, and only the difficulties of communication retard progress in this direction.

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

36. The following are the wages paid to Government employees :—

	Per Day. Shs.
Blacksmiths	17
Carpenters	10 to 12
Labourers	3 to 5½
Masons	10 to 12
Painters	5 to 9
Plumbers	10 to 15
Truck Drivers	6 to 8

Government and private employees usually work 8½ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive from 10s. to 20s. per week and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 2s. 6d. to 5s. a day. The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, and sugar, and he spends about 1s. 6d. a day on his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

37. *Average cost of living for Officials.*—The cost of living in New Providence would be the same whether the officer lived in the town (Nassau) or in the country. In any case the cost is very high. Only wealthy persons could live in the first-class hotels, which are open only in the winter. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding-house for £6 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £450 a year. Under similar conditions a married man with his wife might live for about £600 a year. A bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case, without children, a married couple should be able to live on about £600 a year. In the Out Islands there are no hotels or boarding-houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

38. *Education.*—Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The average cost per pupil on the roll was £1 10s. The total amount voted to the Board of Education was £17,775 during the year 1932.

The Board maintained 55 schools, and, grants-in-aid were paid to 57 other schools. The total pupil roll was 11,657. Owing to the scattered population, this relatively large number of schools

is not entirely adequate. Not a few children are out of reach of any school and in certain localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

39. In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training. This is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. Sewing lessons for girl pupils have been introduced in 49 schools.

40. The Board employs 69 teachers (principal and assistant), among whom are seven from other West Indian Colonies. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies, which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government

41. *Welfare Institutions.*—An Infirmary and Lunatic and Leper Asylums, the inmates of which are admitted free of charge, are maintained by the Government and are under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it, and free rations are issued to 400 paupers in the Colony. The Infant Welfare Association and the Pre-Natal Clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, which has up to the present been supported entirely by public subscriptions, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks, housemaids, and hotel waiters, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service, besides teaching handicrafts.

42. There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many Friendly Societies existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are five cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

43. During the year, 1,742 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 3,263,311, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number, 986 vessels, with a total tonnage of 3,195,187, called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Leyland and Harrison Lines and the Royal Mail Line. A weekly passenger and freight service to New York is maintained in the winter months by the Munson Line,

which is under contract with the Bahamas Government; a passenger service to Miami is maintained by this steamship line. The Canadian National Steamships vessels call at Nassau every two weeks *en route* from Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda to Jamaica; in the winter these vessels also call at Boston. A weekly service for carriage of fruit is maintained by the same line during the tomato season. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 103 vessels of 40,095 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports. During the tourist season from November to April numerous large cruise vessels call at Nassau.

44. A daily air service between Nassau and Miami with planes carrying 24 passengers has been maintained by the Pan-American Airways Incorporated during the winter. During the summer this service is performed with 8-passenger planes, twice weekly.

45. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular subsidized services by such vessels are maintained to all islands.

46. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the British Board of Trade and others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

47. *Roads.*—In New Providence there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 1,100 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and most of the roads are impassable for vehicles. In accordance with the general policy adopted with respect to development of the Out Islands, road development has been undertaken on one island at a time. A good earth road of about 70 miles in extent has been constructed and was completed during the year 1929 in the island of Eleuthera. It is hoped that such road construction will facilitate agricultural development. A similar road has been roughly constructed throughout the length of Long Island.

48. *Post Office.*—The various Postal services have been well maintained during the year. The cash-on-delivery system is in force in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass through the United States of America, as there is no direct mail service. Domestic parcel post was established some years ago, and all District Post Offices are money-order offices. The issue of money-orders on United States post offices was suspended owing to the rise and fluctuations in exchange.

49. Telegraph communication is effected by wireless service maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, New Providence, with eighteen stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

50. The Nassau station maintains continuous watch on the following wave-lengths :—600 metres (500 KCS), 630 metres (475.9 KCS), and 700 metres (428.3 KCS) ICW and CW for marine communication; 2,100 metres (142.8 KCS), 17.61 metres (17,040 KCS), 18.26 metres (16,430 KCS), 24 metres (12,500 KCS), 36 metres (8,333 KCS) for long and short wave marine work; 2,800 metres (107.1 KCS) CW and for alternative point-to-point service. High frequency communication is established on 96 metres (3,126 KCS), 90 metres (3,331 KCS), 52 metres (5,769 KCS) and for aircraft on 54 metres (5,495 KCS). High frequency transmitters have also been supplied to the ten most important of the Out Islands working on 56.6 metres (5,300 KCS), in addition to their spark equipment on 600 metres (500 KCS), which is now only kept as emergency equipment. The remaining eight Out Island stations communicate on 620 metres (483.6 KCS) low power CW. Long distance telephone by short wave W/T has been established, working on a frequency of 66.44 metres (4,512.5 KCS), through Hialeah, Florida, to all points in the United States of America, Canada, Cuba, and Mexico, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. E.S.T.

51. The Out Island stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes and for the dissemination of storm warnings.

52. *Telephones.*—In Nassau, there is a telephone system owned and operated by the Bahamas Government with 1,113 subscribers. Of the other islands of the Bahamas Group, Eleuthera has 65 miles of telephone line, Cat Island 30 miles of line, and Long Island 45 miles of line, connecting the principal settlements to the wireless stations on the islands in question.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures.

53. *Banking.*—The only bank doing business in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November, 1932, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £585,832. The Post Office Savings Bank had at the end of June, 1932, 5,813 depositors with deposits to their credit amounting to £54,694.

54. *Currency.*—The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declares British sterling to be the money of account and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £110,000 in local Government currency notes of 4s., 10s., and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £55,000 in British silver coin. United

States currency is not legal tender in the Colony but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

55. *Weights and Measures.*—By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

56. The Public Works Department superintends the maintenance and construction of all public works on behalf of the Public Board of Works. This Board, which consists of five members, is appointed annually by the Governor, and all funds for public works are voted to it by the Legislature. The Department also supervises the carrying out of work for other Public Boards and for the Government.

The following are some of the most important works of construction carried out by the Public Works Department during the year.

Buildings.—Extension of Nassau Radio Station and erection of new towers.

Wharves and Sea-walls.—Construction of a pier at Clifton, New Providence, for disembarkation of passengers at times when the Nassau Harbour is closed owing to rough seas. New wharf at Harbour Island.

Miscellaneous.—Installation of five Automatic Beacons. Improvement of Fort Charlotte grounds. Reconstruction of works destroyed by hurricane on Abaco Island.

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

57. The law in force in the Colony is the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the Local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

58. The establishment of the Colony's armed Police Force is four officers and 125 other ranks, but owing to the need for economy the active strength of the Force has now been reduced to four officers and 113 other ranks. The Force is stationed chiefly at Nassau. Six constables are stationed on the Out Islands, together with a number of local and district constables who are responsible for the policing of their various districts.

59. All long-term prisoners are sent to the central prison in Nassau, which accommodates 102 male and 16 female prisoners.

60. The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being gastro-intestinal, pulmonary, venereal and skin diseases, and constipation.

61. There is no separate provision for juveniles in the central prison, but this class of offender is committed to the Industrial School, a reformatory, managed by a Visiting Committee, where agriculture and other crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary schooling.

62. Payment of fines by instalments is permitted in suitable cases, but the necessity seldom arises. The Penal Code provides for placing offenders on probation, but there are no regular probation officers, and it has been found that the practice of the binding over of adult offenders on their own recognizances is sufficiently effective.

63. The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1932 :—

Imprisoned	241
Whipped	87
Fined	1,239
Bound over or otherwise disposed of	331
Discharged	427
Committed for trial in Superior Court	64
Total	2,389

A daily average of prisoners in the Nassau Prison during 1932 was 121.

CHAPTER XIV.

Legislation.

64. The following are the principal laws passed during the year 1932 :—

Chapter 1.—The Tariff Act 1932 revising the customs tariff and bringing it into conformity with the Ottawa Agreement.

Chapter 8.—The Illegitimates Act 1932 providing for maintenance of illegitimate children.

Chapter 11.—The Currency Note Amendment Act, 1932 authorizing reduction in the fixed proportion of coin held to cover a portion of the Colony's Note issue from one-third to one-fifth.

Chapter 14.—The Harbour Dues Amendment Act 1932 reducing port charges on goods in transit.

Chapter 15.—The Licences Expiration Act 1931 making all licences renewable on 1st January instead of 1st April.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

65. The increased trade of the Colony has been reflected in the increased revenue of the last decade. In 1919 the total receipts amounted to no more than £81,000; in 1922-23 they had swollen to £852,000, since when the annual revenue always exceeded £400,000 until 1931-32 when it fell to £386,000.

66. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1927-28	485,319	672,986
1928-29	517,211	673,803
1929-30	556,799	578,584
1930-31	455,370	426,900
1931-32	386,374	422,706
	2,401,073	2,774,979

67. The actual excess of expenditure over revenue for this period was £373,906. This excess is due to large public works, such as the dredging of the harbour, the building of a new wharf and transit shed, and the installation of a water-supply and sewerage system, the cost of which has been paid for partly out of revenue and partly by advances made by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. Revenue is now being derived from the improved harbour and wharfage accommodation and from the water-supply and the sewerage works.

68. The Public Debt on 31st March amounted to £180,000, which sum was raised locally by the sale of debentures. Provision is made for the redemption of these debentures by annual contribution from the revenue to a sinking fund, which amounted on 31st March, 1933, to £38,000.

69. Investments in England in Trustee Securities, bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent., and amounting at the end of

the financial year to £200,000, represent the liquid assets of the Colony. Other principal assets are represented by loans to two hotels to the sum of £647,000, secured by mortgages on the hotels.

70. Apart from Real Property Tax, which yielded £6,296 2s. 6d. during the year, including collections of certain arrears in respect of previous years, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from the following sources :—

	Estimate 1932-33. £
Customs	240,844
Port, Wharf and Harbour Dues	15,170
Licences and Internal Revenue	18,131
Fees of Court, etc.	24,097
Posts and Telegraphs	26,185
Interest	23,006
Electric Power Receipts	37,020

An excise duty of 6d. a hundred was recently imposed on cigarettes, but with this exception no excise duties are levied. Stamp duties are imposed on instruments used in civil proceedings in the Supreme Court or in commercial or other transactions and based on the value of the transaction.

71. The Tariff Act, assented to on 19th December, 1932, provides a customs revenue of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* on most imports, though there are some items specifically taxed, while alcoholic beverages and tobacco pay a much higher rate. A sliding scale on agricultural products devised to protect articles capable of production in the Colony is included. There is an export tax on pineapple and sisal plants, wrecked goods, and articles imported for a temporary purpose and exempted from duty under certain conditions. Chief among the exemptions from duty are printed books, flying machines, and essentials to agriculture and to the manufacture of native products. A list of prohibited imports injurious to health and morals is included.

72. The Act expires on 30th April, 1933.

73. The Imperial Preference Act was repealed during the year and a new tariff enacted to accord to British goods such preferences as were provided for under the terms of the Ottawa Agreement. By this Act a preference of 50 per cent. is accorded to British importations; specific exceptions to this general preference are, however, included.

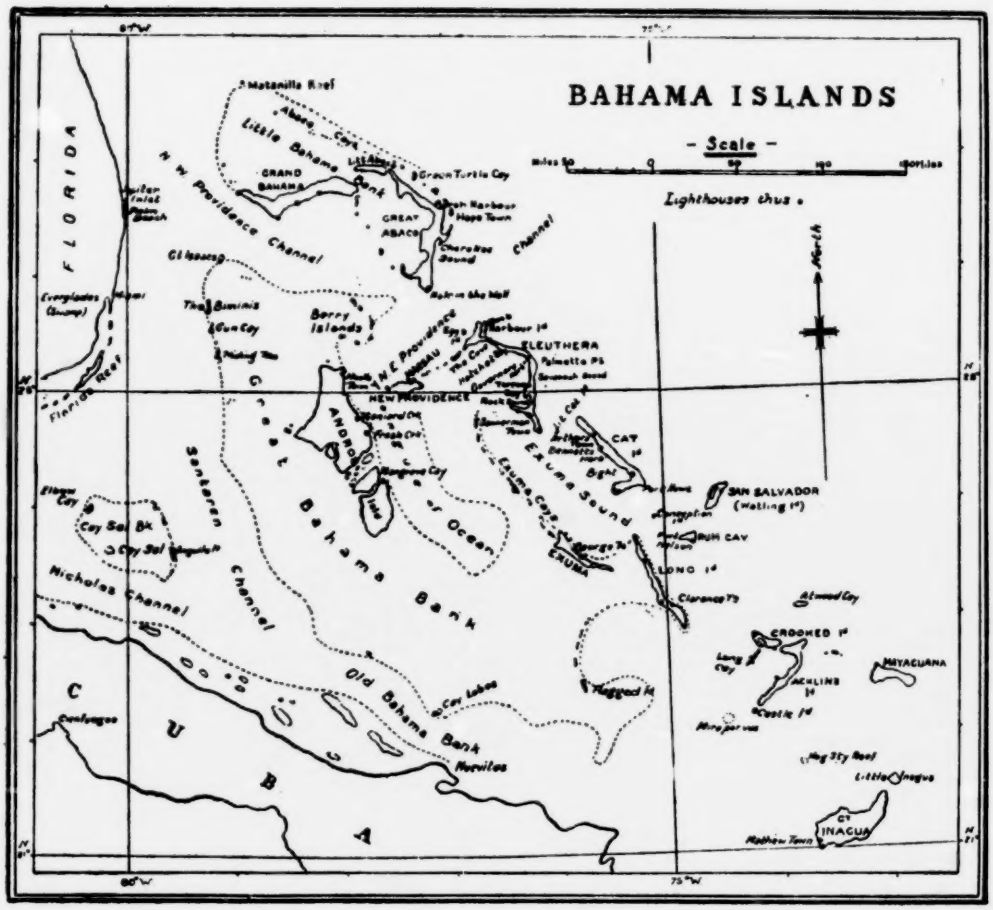
CHARLES DUNDAS,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,
31*st March*, 1933.

APPENDIX.

Bahamas Publications, etc.

Title.	*Price.*	*Agents for Sale.*
Laws:		The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, England. Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.
Revised Edition, volumes 1 and 2, Cloth bound.	2 guineas per volume.	
Bound half calf	3 guineas per volume.	
Annual volumes for years subsequent to 1928.	½d. per printed page.	
Single copies of Acts	„ „	
Rules, Regulations and Orders - in - Council.	„ „	
Blue Books...	10s.	
Official Gazette	½d. per printed page. Annual subscription, 12s. 6d.	
Departmental Reports	½d. per printed page.	
Census 1931	2s.	
Atlas with maps of Bahama Islands ...	10s.	
Bahamas Hand Book, 1926 (by Mary Moseley, M.B.E.).	10s.	
Public Health and Medical Conditions in New Providence (by Sir Wilfred Beverage, K.B.E., C.B., M.B., C.M., (Edin.) D.P.H., (Camb.) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).	10s.	
Law Report Volume 1, 1900–1906 (Edited by Kenneth Solomon, K.C., Member of Bahamas Bar).	6s.	
Sand-fly Report, 1932 (by Dr. J. G. Myers, Sc. D., F.Z.S., F.E.S.).	9d.	Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.
Memorandum on Agriculture in Bahamas (by Hon. Charles Dundas, O.B.E.).	2s.	



(19181—28) Wt. 631—3029 750 6/33 P. St. G 7/8

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121. 9*d.* (10*d.*).

Fruit Supplies in 1930. (E.M.B. 38.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Changes in the Demand for Butter. (E.M.B. 39.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Report on Development of Agriculture in the Bahamas. (E.M.B. 40.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

A Preliminary Report on an investigation into the Control of West Indian Insect Pests. (E.M.B. 42.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

Recent Advances in Pasture Management. (E.M.B. 43.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Dairy Research. (E.M.B. 44.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Transport and Storage of Bananas with special reference to Chilling. (E.M.B. 45.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery. 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

Wool Quality: A Study of the Influence of various contributory factors, their significance and the technique of their measurement. Cloth. £1 1*s.* (£1 1*s.* 9*d.*).

Australian and New Zealand Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the deterioration in transit of Imported Australian and New Zealand Fruit, 1927–30. (E.M.B. 46.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Banana Breeding at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. (E.M.B. 47.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Imperial Sugar Cane Research Conference, 1931. Report of Proceedings. 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 11*d.*).

Further Changes in the Demand for Butter, July, 1928, and July, 1931. Report of an Investigation into the Retail Marketing of Butter in Nottingham. (E.M.B. 48.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 49.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

The Demand for Honey. (E.M.B. 50.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Milk Price Margins. A Report on the Differences between Producers' Prices, Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Liquid Milk in certain Large Cities in Different Countries. (E.M.B. 51.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Dairy Produce Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 52.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1931, to May, 1932. (E.M.B. 53.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Survey of Vegetable Oilseeds and Oils. Vol. I. Oil Palm Products. (E.M.B. 54.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

Canned and Dried Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 55.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

The Demand for Canned Vegetables. (E.M.B. 56.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Wool Survey. A Summary of Production and Trade in the Empire and Foreign Countries. (E.M.B. 57.) 2*s.* (2*s.* 6*d.*).

Cattle Breeding in Jamaica and Trinidad. (E.M.B. 58.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

The Storage of Tropically-grown Tomatoes. (E.M.B. 59.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Control of Wastage in Bananas, with special reference to Time and Temperature Factors. (E.M.B. 60.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

All prices are net. Those in parentheses include Postage.

OBTAINABLE FROM

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

AT THE ADDRESSES ON THE FRONT COVER OF THIS REPORT

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS,
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS,
UGANDA.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1661

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF

BAHAMAS, 1933

(For Reports for 1931 and 1932 see Nos. 1571 and 1614 respectively, price 1s. 0d. each)

Crown Copyright Reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh 2
York Street, Manchester 1; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff
80, Chichester Street, Belfast
or through any Bookseller

1934

Price 1s. 0d. Net

58-1661

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE AT OTTAWA, 1932.
Summary of Proceedings and Copies of Trade Agreements. [Cmd. 4174.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 4175.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION.
Report of the Imperial Committee on, 1933. [Cmd. 4335.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

CONFERENCE OF EMPIRE SURVEY OFFICERS, 1931.
Report of Proceedings. [Colonial No. 70.] £1 (£1 0*s.* 9*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage-Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission to. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).

KENYA COLONY AND PROTECTORATE, Native Affairs Department.
Annual Report, 1931. 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

WEST INDIES.
Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

ANI, East African Agricultural Research Station.
Fifth Annual Report, 1932–33. [Colonial No. 86.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d*).

MALAYA.
Report of Brig.-Gen. Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during the year 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES, PROTECTORATES, MANDATED TERRITORIES, &c.
New Edition, 1933. [Colonial No. 83.] 7*s.* 6*d.* (8*s.*).

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA, Joint Select Committee on. H.C. 156.
Vol. I.—Report and Proceedings ... 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).
Vol. II.—Minutes of Evidence ... £1 10*s.* (£1 10*s.* 9*d.*).
Vol. III.—Appendices ... ... 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 11*d.*).

CONSTITUTION OF CEYLON. [Cmd. 3862.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
Report of a Commission on the Financial and Economic Position of, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE LIST.
1st Edition, January, 1933. [Colonial No. 80.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

COLONIAL REGULATIONS: being Regulations for H.M. Colonial Service.
Part I. Public Officers. [Colonial No. 88–I.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Report of the Royal Commission, with Appendices and Maps. [Cmd. 4480.] 5*s.*6*d.* (5*s.* 11*d.*).

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF SEYCHELLES.
Report of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF BRITISH GUIANA.
Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

MALTA ROYAL COMMISSION, 1931.
Report. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

At the Addresses on the Title Page of this Report.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS FOR 1933

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate, and History	2
II.	Government	4
III.	Population	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	7
VI.	Production	8
VII.	Commerce	10
VIII.	Wages and Cost of Living	12
IX.	Education and Welfare Institutions	12
X.	Communications and Transport	13
XI.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures	15
XII.	Public Works	16
XIII.	Justice and Police	16
XIV.	Legislation	17
XV.	Public Finance and Taxation	18
	Appendix—Bahamas Publications	19
	Sketch Map.	

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate, and History.

Geography.—The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of islands, "cays", and rocks lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. In addition to the islands there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles. It is

said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but the honeycomb rock contains pockets of rich fertile soil.

3. There are no mountains and very few hills, but the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture not easily matched. It is probable that the islands were at one time thickly wooded, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros.

4. *Climate.*—The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September, and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. Although the heat during the summer months is trying, and the mosquitoes and sandflies are troublesome, the islands are never unhealthy.

5. *History.*—At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely, 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647 a Company of " Eleutherian Adventurers " was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

6. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba. In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing

to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

7. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

8. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

9. The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

10. " The Eleutherian Adventurers " who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647 brought with them a conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

11. The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills) and to reject altogether any bills, even those dealing with money.

12. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred last in June, 1928.

13. No forms of local Government exist.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

14. The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last census* (1931).
Abaco	776	4,233
Andros	1,600	7,071
Berry Islands	14	222
Bimini	8	736
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,527
Exuma and Cays	100	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Inagua	560	667
Long Island	130	4,515
Fortune Island Group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,238
Mayaguana	96	518
New Providence	58	19,756
Ragged Island Group	5	424
Rum Cay	29	252
Cat Island	160	3,959
San Salvador or Watling	60	675
Totals ...	4,396	59,808

15. The estimated population of the whole Colony on 31st December, 1933, was 62,679.

16. The total population is thus approximately 60,000, mostly of African race. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, many of them being descendants of soldiers who settled in the Bahamas after the War of American Independence. English is the only language spoken.

Births.—There were 1,831 births in the Colony during the year, or 30·5 per 1,000.

Deaths.—There were 1,145 deaths in the Colony during the year, or 19·1 per 1,000.

Marriages.—There were 420 marriages during the year in the whole Colony.

Infantile Mortality.—Figures are only available for New Providence, where there were 70 deaths under one year, or 119·4 per 1,000.

Emigration and Immigration.—4,918 persons left the Colony and 5,099 were admitted during the year, of which a large proportion consisted of winter visitors.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

17. The climate of the Colony is most conducive to good health, and Nassau, the capital, can boast of an excellent pipe-borne water supply and an up-to-date sewerage system, as well as an ice plant. The city water and the ice manufactured from it are analysed monthly and have shown a high bacteriological standard. There have been no epidemics during the year and only 10 cases of typhoid reported as against 29 for the previous year. Malaria is not common in Nassau and practically all cases are imported from other countries or from the southern islands of the Colony. The Infant Welfare Association, which is financed by public subscriptions and an annual contribution from the Government, is doing excellent work. It employs one trained nurse and holds three clinics a week which are attended by a private practitioner. Much needed work is also done by the Pre-natal Clinic which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Mission. The Government expended a total sum of £28,495 7s. 10d. on its Medical and Sanitary Departments during the year 1933. The Medical Department had a staff of three Medical Officers and four Nurses at the Bahamas General Hospital in Nassau and seven District Medical Officers at the Out Island stations. The Department operates a General Hospital, a Lunatic Asylum, an Infirmary,

a Venereal Clinic, a Dental Clinic, and a Leper Compound. The last named is situated well away from any inhabited part of the island (New Providence).

18. The following is a table of the principal groups of diseases treated at the Bahamas General Clinic during the year, together with the mortality arising from these diseases

Disease.	*Number of Cases.*	*Number of Deaths.*
Typhoid fever	10	3
Tuberculosis	97	56
Venereal diseases	208	36
Pellagra	47	9
Diseases of the heart	32	19
Diarrhoea and enteritis under two years	16	11
Puerperal eclampsia	8	0
Diseases of infancy	43	17

19. The above diseases occurred chiefly among the wage-earning population. There are no estates, mines, or factories in the Colony.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

20. Wage-earners are found almost only in Nassau. Their housing is most usually of the type known as "shack," i.e., a wooden two or three-roomed structure with separate outside kitchen and pit-latrine and devoid of other sanitary installations. Water is most generally supplied by wells. Some houses are owned by the occupants; others are rented, the rate being 4s. to 8s. a week. In many cases these shacks are overcrowded, whether by one family or persons of several families, and, as their habit is to close all doors and windows at night, the atmosphere in which they sleep is scarcely conducive to good health. Such houses are invariably built on separate plots, so that there is no crowding of houses or slum condition.

21. The most urgent need is the replacement of numerous dwellings of such poor construction that they are incapable of withstanding hurricane winds of any great velocity. In an effort to improve on this condition, over 100 houses of special hurricane-proof design were built at public expense in replacement of houses destroyed in the hurricane of September, 1929. The cost of these houses, varying from £45 to £75, was made recoverable by weekly payments to be spread over four years, and it was hoped that the receipts would be available for further construction of houses for the wage-earning class, but the collection of instalments has proved difficult, and the scheme as originally envisaged cannot be

developed until a substantial proportion of the capital outlay has been recovered. No building societies exist in the Colony.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

22. The natural resources of the Colony are marine, soil, and forest products. Excepting for forest exploitation on Abaco Island, production is conducted individually, there being neither factories, plantations, nor mines anywhere in the Colony.

23. Of the products of the Colony, sponge, tomatoes, shell, salt, and timber are exported; other commodities are at the present time produced only for local consumption. No actual distinction exists between cultivation or other forms of production by persons of European and non-European descent. The former are principally engaged in commerce and the latter mainly in production; but persons of both races may be found engaged in one or the other of these pursuits, and such limited agricultural employment as exists is not restricted entirely to one race.

24. Most important of the marine products is sponge. Of late years the output has been considerably diminished, due, apparently, to depletion of the supply resulting in part from ruthless fishing, but more especially from wholesale destruction of sponges with each successive hurricane. Artificial sponge culture has been resorted to and has been productive of encouraging results around Andros and Exuma Islands.

25. Coarse salt was formely won in considerable quantities from salt-ponds in several islands. Efforts are now being made to revive the trade and to produce a cleaner grade of salt which will sell more readily than the quality hitherto produced.

26. *Fisheries.*—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export. A company located at Bimini has exported crawfish, though in diminished quantities. Shark fishery has been practised spasmodically for some years, and conch and tortoise shell find a limited and fluctuating market.

27. *Agriculture.*—The rocky nature of the land and the paucity of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the islands have in the past been highly productive of sub-tropical cultivations, and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land. Another contributory factor may have been the havoc caused by the hurricanes during the seven years 1926-32.

28. Apart from staple foods, unfortunately produced in quantities insufficient to meet local demands, the principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market, where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicaps Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now ceased; but exportation to Canada was developed in 1931 and the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax.

29. Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, has practically become extinct. The high cost of labour precludes the operation of plantations and decorticating factories, and the salt-water-retted product has finally proved to be unfit for sale.

30. Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. Efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation and satisfactory progress is being made.

31. Stock and poultry raising is conducted on a very limited scale for local consumption, but the output is of poor grade and insufficient to supply local demand.

32. The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years:—

		1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Cascarilla bark ...	... lb.	77,124	89,600	31,360	24,528	27,388
	£	3,171	3,538	1,704	1,464	946
Tomatoes, raw ...	... M. Bushels	91	169	99	165	120
	£	47,759	89,336	51,502	75,311	26,451
Sisal hemp ...	... Tons	854	308	21	81	22
	£	15,679	5,153	244	484	162
Abaco pine timber	... M. feet	2,480	281	2,010	5,466	4,347
	£	19,319	5,206	10,015	26,799	22,724
Woods, other ...	... Tons	128	69	29	51	130
	£	509	274	110	261	605
Shell, tortoise ...	... lb.	11,112	4,233	4,978	5,524	3,622
	£	17,408	7,003	6,165	6,677	3,510
Shell, conch ...	... No.	87,707	82,000	58,869	38,603	34,653
	£	414	354	396	281	196
Sponge	... M. lb.	268	550	684	683	864
	£	106,984	75,351	85,340	77.992	84,562
Salt	... M. Bushels	22	88	53	7	79
	£	245	876	970	126	765

33. The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation and the quantity of live stock in the Colony :—

Crop.	*Acres.*	*Live stock.*	*Number.*
Citrus	253	Horses	1,827
Coconuts ...	639	Horned cattle ...	2,135
Onions	53	Sheep	17,116
Pineapples ...	38	Goats	9,700
Sisal	5,724	Swine	4,757
Tomatoes ...	1,635	Poultry	40,369
Other products ...	17,962		
Total ...	26,304	Total ...	75,904

34. It is difficult to assess the number of persons engaged in agriculture. Practically everyone not engaged in commerce cultivates in a small way for his own needs. On the other hand, comparatively few live solely by cultivation of the soil.

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

35. The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,962,669	1,662,423	1,249,827	940,063	929,731
Exports	365,129	334,986	287,562	263,886	180,151
Total (excluding specie) ...	2,327,798	1,997,409	1,537,389	1,203,949	1,109,882

36. The values of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period were as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	420,421	323,259	264,880	228,356	251,294
Canada	521,508	511,010	359,772	221,444	261,558
United States of America	740,865	606,144	438,596	334,501	259,935

37. The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	743,784	675,639	519,896	275,926	333,408
Wines	64,362	42,115	21,991	14,226	13,755
Cordials and Liqueurs ...	13,297	9,535	7,071	4,670	4,139
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	22,570	19,187	17,664	17,336	13,429
Food-stuffs	387,929	292,643	236,621	240,569	227,204
Lumber and Shingles ...	54,044	44,692	16,242	12,239	14,671
Boots and Shoes	26,322	18,982	14,550	13,586	13,886
Cotton Manufactures ...	44,522	42,558	35,742	34,559	26,868
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of.	16,840	30,724	19,709	7,089	5,864
Oils	57,114	49,414	42,641	39,018	32,419
Motor cars, trucks, and parts.	30,741	18,016	12,801	7,345	15,235

38. The principal exports of local produce were :—

	Quantities.	*Value.*
		£
Tomatoes (m. bush.)	120	26,451
Cascarilla bark (cwt.)	244	946
Lumber (m. feet)	4,347	22,724
Tortoiseshell (lb.)	3,622	3,510
Sponge (m. lb.)	864	84,562

39. Of these products, cascarilla bark was exported entirely to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, tomatoes to Canada, and tortoiseshell to the United Kingdom. The lumber export was to Cuba, Jamaica, Porto Rico, Trinidad, and Turks Island. Sponge was exported to eight countries of Europe, and to the United States of America, Canada, and Japan, the major portion going to the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom.

40. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct freight service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a day's steaming. In these circumstances it is explicable that there has been a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States in the past; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion has steadily increased, and of late, there has been a strong tendency to import from the United Kingdom. Generally speaking, increasing interest in trade with the Empire has manifested itself, and

only the difficulties of communication retard progress in this direction.

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

41. The following are the wages paid to Government employees :—

	Per Day. Shs.
Blacksmiths	17
Carpenters	8 to 10
Labourers	3 to 5½
Masons	8 to 10
Painters	4 to 8
Plumbers	10 to 14
Truck drivers	6 to 7

42. Government and private employees usually work 8½ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive from 10s. to 20s. per week and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 1s. 6d. to 3s. a day. The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, and sugar, and he spends about 9d. a day on his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

43. *Average cost of living for Officials.*—The cost of living in New Providence would be the same whether the Officer lived in the town (Nassau) or in the country. In any case the cost is very high. Only wealthy persons could live in the first-class hotels, which are open only in the winter. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding-house for £6 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £450 a year. Under similar conditions a married man with his wife might live for about £600 a year. A bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case, without children, a married couple should be able to live on about £600 a year. In the Out Islands there are no hotels or boarding-houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

44. *Education.*—Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The average cost per pupil on the roll was £1 11s. 3d. The total amount voted to the Board of Education was £17,125 during the year 1933.

45. The Board maintained 55 schools, and, grants-in-aid were paid to 57 other schools. The total pupil roll was 11,185. Owing to the scattered population, this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate. Not a few children are out of reach of any school and in certain localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

46. In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training. This is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. Sewing lessons for girl pupils have been introduced in 49 schools.

47. The Board employs 70 teachers (principal and assistant), among whom are six from other West Indian Colonies, and in addition 57 Grant-in-Aid teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education, and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies, which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government.

48. *Welfare Institutions.*—An Infirmary and Lunatic and Leper Asylums, the inmates of which are admitted free of charge, are maintained by the Government and are under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it, and free rations are issued to 400 paupers in the Colony. The Infant Welfare Association and the Pre-Natal Clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, which has in the present year received a Government subsidy, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks, housemaids, and hotel waiters, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service, besides teaching handicrafts.

49. There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many Friendly Societies existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are four cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

50. During the year, 1,590 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 3,024,320, entered and cleared the ports of the

Colony. Of this number, 855 vessels, with a total tonnage of 2,959,012, called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Leyland and Harrison Lines and the Royal Mail Line. The Pacific Steamship Navigation Company has inaugurated monthly calls. A weekly passenger and freight service to New York is maintained in the winter months by the Munson Line, which is under contract with the Bahamas Government; a passenger service to Miami is maintained by this steamship line. The Canadian National Steamships vessels call at Nassau every two weeks *en route* from Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda to Jamaica; in the winter these vessels also call at Boston. A weekly service for carriage of fruit is maintained by the same line during the tomato season. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 87 vessels of 41,185 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports. During the tourist season from November to April numerous large cruise vessels call at Nassau.

51. A daily air service between Nassau and Miami, with planes carrying 24 passengers, has been maintained by the Pan-American Airways Incorporated during the winter. During the summer this service is performed with 8 passenger planes, twice weekly.

52. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular subsidized services by such vessels are maintained to all islands.

53. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the British Board of Trade and others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

54. *Roads.*—In New Providence there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 1,055 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and most of the roads are impassable for vehicles. In accordance with the general policy adopted with respect to development of the Out Islands, road development has been undertaken on one island at a time. A good earth road of about 70 miles in extent in the island of Eleuthera has done much to facilitate agricultural development on that island. A similar road has been roughly constructed throughout the length of Long Island.

55. *Post Office.*—The various postal services have been well maintained during the year. The cash-on-delivery system is in use in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass

through the United States of America, as there is no direct mail service. Domestic parcel post was established some years ago, and all District Post Offices are money-order offices. The issue of money-orders on United States post offices was suspended owing to the fluctuations in exchange.

56. Telegraph communication is effected by wireless service, maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, New Providence, with twenty stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

57. The Nassau station maintains continuous watch on the following wave-length :—600 metres (500 KCS) with alternative waves on 630 metres (475·9 KCS), and 700 metres (428·3 KCS) ICW and CW for marine communication; 2,100 metres (142·8 KCS) at 35 to 45 minutes past the hour, 17·61 metres (17,040 KCS) 18·26 metres (16,430 KCS), Hour to ten past 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. odd hours, 24 metres (12,500 KCS), Hour to ten past 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. even hours, 36 metres (8,333 KCS) Hour to ten past 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. each hour for long and short wave marine work; 2,800 metres (107·1 KCS) CW and for alternative point-to-point service. High frequency communication is established on 96 metres (3,126 KCS), 90 metres (3,331 KCS), 70 metres (4,260 KCS), 52 metres (5,769 KCS) point-to-point services and for aircraft on 54 metres (5,495 KCS). High frequency transmitters have also been supplied to the ten most important of the Out Islands working on 56·6 metres (5,300 KCS), in addition to their spark equipment on 600 metres (500 KCS), which is now only kept as emergency. The remaining eight Out Island stations communicate on 620 metres (483·6 KCS) low power CW. Long distance telephone by short wave W/T has been established, working on a frequency of 66·44 metres (4,512·5 KCS), through Hialeah, Florida, to all points in the United States of America, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, North Africa, South America, Hawaii, Great Britain, Europe, Bermuda and ships at sea so fitted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. E.S.T.

58. The Out Island Stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, are very useful for administrative purposes and for the dissemination of storm warnings.

59. *Telephones.*—In Nassau there is a telephone system, owned and operated by the Bahamas Government, with 1,001 subscribers. Of the other islands of the Bahamas Group, Eleuthera has 40 miles of telephone line, Cat Island 30 miles of line, and Long Island 45 miles of line, connecting the principal settlements to the wireless stations on the islands in question.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures.

60. *Banking.*—The only bank doing business in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau Branch of the Royal

Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November, 1933, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £568,175. The Post Office Savings Bank had at the end of June, 1933, 6,011 depositors with deposits to their credit amounting to £57,312.

61. There are as yet no Agricultural or Co-operative Banks.

62. *Currency.*—The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declares British sterling to be the money of account and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £110,000 in local Government currency notes of 4s., 10s., and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £50,000 in British silver coin. United States currency is not legal tender in the Colony but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

63. *Weights and Measures.*—By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

64. The Public Works Department superintends the maintenance and construction of all public works including the water supply as well as sewerage and drainage works, lighthouses, etc., on behalf of the Public Board of Works. This Board, which consists of five members, is appointed annually by the Governor, and all funds for public works are voted to it by the Legislature. The Department also supervises the carrying out of work for other Public Boards and for the Government.

65. No important works of construction were carried out by the Public Works Department during the year.

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

66. The law in force in the Colony is the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the Local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in

charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

67. The establishment of the Colony's armed Police Force is four officers and 125 other ranks, but owing to the need for economy the active strength of the Force has now been reduced to four officers and 112 other ranks. The Force is stationed chiefly at Nassau. Six constables are stationed on the Out Islands, together with a number of local and district constables who are responsible for the policing of their various districts.

68. All long-term prisoners are sent to the central prison in Nassau, which accommodates 102 male and 16 female prisoners.

69. The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being gastro-intestinal, pulmonary, venereal, and skin diseases, and constipation.

70. There is no separate provision for juveniles in the central prison, but this class of offender is committed to the Industrial School, a reformatory, managed by a Visiting Committee, where agriculture and other crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary schooling.

71. Payment of fines by instalments is permitted in suitable cases, but the necessity seldom arises. The Penal Code provides for placing offenders on probation, but there are no regular probation officers, and it has been found that the practice of the binding over of adult offenders on their own recognizances is sufficiently effective.

72. The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1933 :—

Imprisoned	37
Whipped	28
Fined	442
Bound over or otherwise disposed of	336
Discharged	90
Committed for trial in Superior Court	22
Total	955

73. A daily average of prisoners in the Nassau Prison during 1933 was 133.

CHAPTER XIV.

Legislation.

74. The only important law passed during the year 1933 was Chapter 8 " The Shop Licenses Act ", whereunder all shops and travelling salesmen are required to be licensed.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

75. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure*
	£	£
1928-29	517,211	673,803
1929-30	556,799	578,584
1930-31	455,370	426,900
1931-32	386,374	422,706
1932-33	352,160	326,238
	2,267,914	2,428,231

76. The actual excess of expenditure over revenue for this period was £160,317.

77. The Public Debt on 31st March amounted to £180,000, which sum was raised locally by the sale of debentures. Provision is made for the redemption of these debentures by annual contribution from the revenue to a sinking fund, which amounted on 31st March, 1933, to £35,425.

78. Investments in England in Trustee Securities, bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent., and amounting at the end of the financial year to £200,000, represent the liquid assets of the Colony. Other principal assets are represented by loans to two hotels to the sum of £647,000, secured by mortgages on the hotels.

79. Apart from Real Property Tax, which yielded £4,528 during the year, including collections of certain arrears in respect of previous years, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from the following sources :—

	Estimate, 1933-34.
	£
Customs	163,060
Port, Wharf and Harbour Dues	10,600
Licences and Internal Revenue	16,957
Fees of Court, etc.	19,735
Posts and Telegraphs	22,640
Interest	18,420
Electric Power Receipts	33,200

80. An excise duty of 6d. a hundred is imposed on cigarettes, but with this exception no excise duties are levied. Stamp duties are imposed on instruments used in civil proceedings in the Supreme Court or in commercial or other transactions and based on the value of the transaction.

81. The Tariff Amendment Act, assented to on 19th December, 1932, provides a customs revenue of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* on

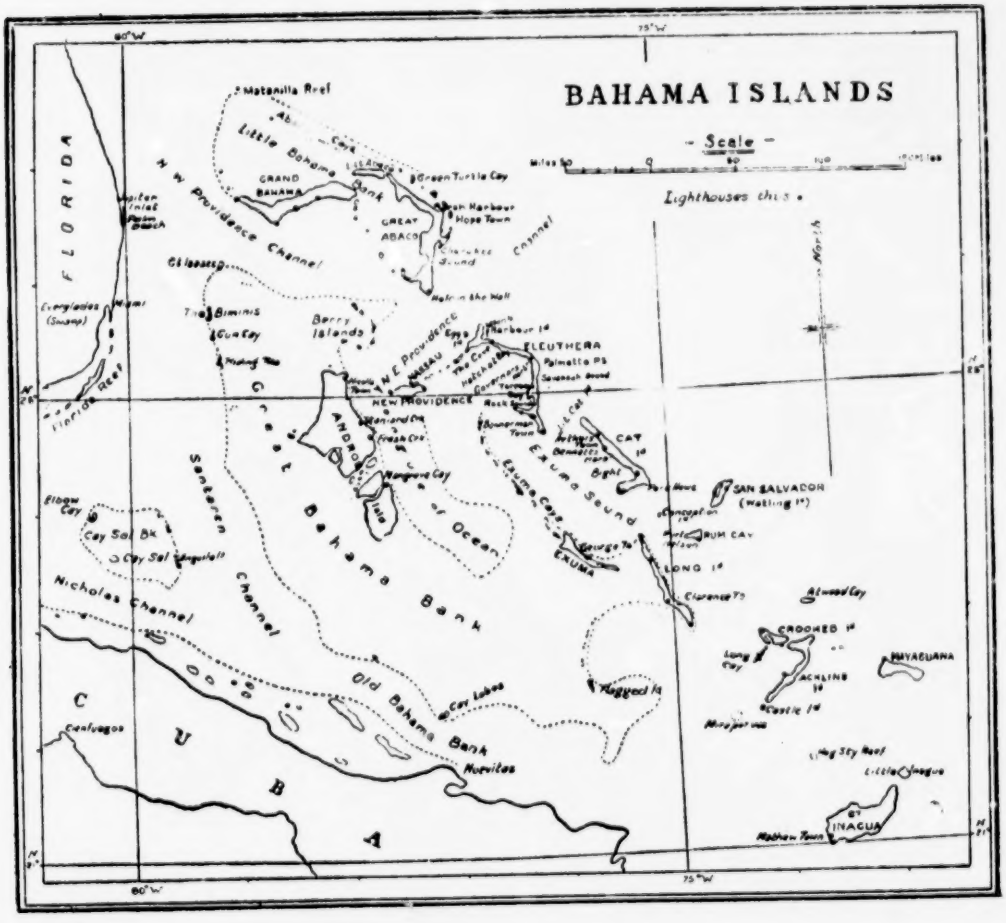
most imports, though there are some items specifically taxed, while alcoholic beverages and tobacco pay a much higher rate. A sliding scale on agricultural products devized to protect articles capable of production in the Colony, is included. There is an export tax on pineapple and sisal plants, wrecked goods, and articles imported for a temporary purpose and exempted from duty under certain conditions. Chief among the exemptions from duty are printed books, flying machines, and essentials to agriculture and to the manufacture of native products. A list of prohibited imports injurious to health and morals is included. The Act expires at the end of the 1934 Session of the Legislature unless further extended.

82. The Imperial Preference Act was repealed during the year 1932, and a new tariff enacted to accord British goods such preferences as were provided for under the terms of the Ottawa Agreement. By this Act a preference of 50 per cent. is accorded to British importations; specific exceptions to this general preference are, however, included.

APPENDIX.

Bahamas Publications, etc.

Title.	*Price.*	*Agents for Sale.*
Laws:		The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, England. Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.
Revised Edition, volumes 1 and 2, Cloth bound.	2 guineas per volume.	
Bound half calf	3 guineas per volume.	
Annual volumes for years subsequent to 1928.	½d. per printed page.	
Single copies of Acts	" "	
Rules, Regulations and Orders in Council.	" "	
Blue Books...	10s.	
Official Gazette	½d. per printed page. Annual subscription, 12s. 6d.	
Departmental Reports	½d. per printed page.	
Census 1931	2s.	
Atlas with maps of Bahama Islands ...	10s.	
Bahamas Hand Book, 1926 (by Mary Moseley, M.B.E.).	10s.	
Public Health and Medical Conditions in New Providence (by Sir Wilfred Beverage, K.B.E., C.B., M.B., C.M., (Edin.) D.P.H., (Camb.) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).	10s.	
Law Report Volume 1, 1900–1906 (Edited by Kenneth Solomon, K.C., Member of Bahamas Bar).	6s.	
Sand-fly Report, 1932 (by Dr. J. G. Myers, Sc. D., F.Z.S., F.E.S.).	9d.	Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.
Memorandum on Agriculture in Bahamas (by Hon. Charles Dundas, C.M.G., O.B.E.).	2s.	



(24248-28) Wt. 505—3214 750 7/34 P. St. G 7/8

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121 — 9*d.* (10*d.*).

British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery. — 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

Wool Quality: A Study of the Influence of various contributory factors, their significance and the technique of their measurement. Cloth. — £1 1*s.* (£1 1*s.* 9*d.*).

Banana Breeding at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. (E.M.B. 47.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d*).

Further Changes in the Demand for Butter, July, 1928, and July, 1931. Report of an Investigation into the Retail Marketing of Butter in Nottingham. (E.M.B. 48.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 49.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

The Demand for Honey. (E.M.B. 50.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Milk Price Margins. A Report on the Differences between Producers' Prices, Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Liquid Milk in certain Large Cities in Different Countries. (E.M.B. 51.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Dairy Produce Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 52.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Survey of Vegetable Oilseeds and Oils. Vol. I. Oil Palm Products. (E.M.B. 54.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

Canned and Dried Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 55.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

The Demand for Canned Vegetables. (E.M.B. 56.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Wool Survey. A Summary of Production and Trade in the Empire and Foreign Countries. (E.M.B. 57.) — 2*s.* (2*s.* 6*d.*).

Cattle Breeding in Jamaica and Trinidad. (E.M.B. 58.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

The Storage of Tropically-grown Tomatoes. (E.M.B. 59.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Control of Wastage in Bananas, with special reference to Time and Temperature Factors. (E.M.B. 60.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

Survey of Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils. Vol. II. Coconut Palm Products. (E.M.B. 61.) — 2*s.* (2*s.* 5*d.*).

Barley Survey. A Study of Barley Production, Exports, Imports, Marketing, Markets and Prices in the Principal Exporting and Importing Countries in the World. (E.M.B. 62.) — 2*s.* (2*s.* 5*d.*).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1932, to May, 1933. (E.M.B. 63.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Sisal: A note on the Attributes of the Fibre and their Industrial Significance. (E.M.B. 64.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Fruit Supplies in 1932. (E.M.B. 65.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Dairy Produce Supplies in 1932. (E.M.B. 66.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Report on the Infestation of Cured Tobacco in London by the Cacao Moth Ephestia Elutella H.B. (E.M.B. 67.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Palestine Orange Shipments. (E.M.B. 68.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Canned and Dried Fruit Supplies in 1932. (E.M.B. 69.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

The Demand for South African Deciduous Fruits. (E.M.B. 70.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d*).

Coir: Report on Attributes and Preparation of Coconut Fibre. (E.M.B. 71). — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Banana Storage. An account of recent investigations into the Storage Behaviour of several varieties. (E.M.B. 72.) — 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include Postage.

OBTAINABLE FROM

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

AT THE ADDRESSES ON THE TITLE PAGE OF THIS REPORT.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

at the Addresses on the Title Page of this Report.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1738

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

BAHAMAS, 1934

(For Reports for 1932 and 1933 see Nos. 1614 and 1661 respectively (Price 1s. 0d. each).)

Crown Copyright Reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;
York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller

1936

Price 1s. 0d. Net

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE, 1932.
[Colonial No. 95.] £1 5*s*. (£1 5*s*. 9*d*.).

CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE.
[Colonial No. 97.] (3 volumes.)

Part I—Africa. 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.)
Part II—Eastern, Mediterranean, and Pacific. 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.)
Part III—West Indies. 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.)

COLONIAL REGULATIONS.
Regulations for His Majesty's Colonial Service.
Part I—Public Officers. [Colonial No. 88–1.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).
Part II—Public Business. [Colonial No. 88–2.] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 4*d*.).

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE LIST.
1st Edition, January, 1933. [Colonial No. 80.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Supplement to 1st Edition, 1st January, 1934.
[Colonial No. 92.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

COLONIAL SERVICE.
Report of Committee on Leave and Passage Conditions for the Colonial Service. [Cmd. 4730.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
Fifth Annual Report covering the period 1st April, 1933, to 31st March, 1934. [Cmd. 4634.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

EMPIRE SURVEY.
Conference of Empire Survey Officers. 1931.
[Colonial No. 70.] £1 (£1 0*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, OTTAWA, 1932.
Summary of Proceedings and copies of Trade Agreements.
[Cmd. 4174.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings [Cmd. 4175.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION.
Report of Imperial Committee, 1933. [Cmd. 4335.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Report of Royal Commission, with Appendices and Maps.
[Cmd. 4480.] 5*s*. 6*d*. (5*s*. 11*d*.).
Papers relating to the Report. [Cmd. 4479.] 2*d*. (2½*d*.).

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3234.] 6*s*. (6*s*. 5*d*.).
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit to East Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3378.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).
Report of Joint Select Committee. H.C. 156.
Vol. I—Report and Proceedings ... 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.).
Vol. II—Minutes and Evidence ... £1 10*s*. (£1 10*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. III—Appendices ... ... 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 11*d*.).

KENYA LAND COMMISSION.
Report, September, 1933. [Cmd. 4556.] 11*s*. (11*s*. 9*d*.).
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 91.]
Vol. I ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. II ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. III ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Summary of Conclusions reached by His Majesty's Government
[Cmd. 4580.] 2*d*. (2½*d*.).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the administration of Justice in Kenya, Uganda, and the Tanganyika Territory in Criminal Matters.
[Cmd. 4623.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 96.] £1 (£1 0*s*. 6*d*.).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON: Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2;
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street; MANCHESTER 1: York Street;
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent; BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street;
or through any Bookseller

[*Continued on page iii of cover.*

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF BAHAMAS FOR 1934

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate, and History	2
II.	Government	4
III.	Population	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	7
VI.	Production	7
VII.	Commerce	10
VIII.	Wages and Cost of Living	11
IX.	Education and Welfare Institutions	12
X.	Communications and Transport	13
XI.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures	15
XII.	Public Works	16
XIII.	Justice and Police	16
XIV.	Legislation	17
XV.	Public Finance and Taxation	18
	Appendix—Bahamas Publications	19
	Sketch Map.	

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of islands, "cays," and rocks lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

In addition to the islands there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The

islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but the honeycomb rock contains pockets of rich fertile soil.

There are no mountains and very few hills, but the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture not easily matched. It is probable that the islands were at one time thickly wooded, but little forest remains except on Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists on Andros.

Climate.

The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September, and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. Although the heat during the summer months is trying, and the mosquitoes and sandflies are troublesome, the islands are never unhealthy.

History.

At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely, 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647, a Company of "Eleutherian Adventurers" was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670, yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673, one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690, another was deposed and imprisoned; and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680, the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba. In 1703, a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau

and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed. In 1776, however, a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the "blockade" imposed against the Confederate States.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

"The Eleutherian Adventurers" who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647 brought with them a conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The Charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advisd by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, has the right to initiate legislation (other than money

bills), to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills), and to reject altogether any bills, even those dealing with money.

The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred in June, 1928.

No forms of local Government exist.

III.—POPULATION.

The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last census* (1931).
Abaco	776	4,233
Andros	1,600	7,071
Berry Islands	14	222
Bimini	8	736
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,527
Exuma and Cays	100	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Inagua	560	667
Long Island	130	4,515
Fortune Island Group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,238
Mayaguana	96	518
New Providence	58	19,756
Ragged Island Group	5	424
Rum Cay	29	252
Cat Island	160	3,959
San Salvador or Watling	60	675
Totals ...	4,396	59,808

The estimated population of the whole Colony on 31st December, 1934, was 63,763.

The total population is thus approximately 60,000, mostly of African race. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, many of them being descendants of soldiers who settled in the Bahamas after the War of American Independence. English is the only language spoken.

Births.—There were 2,006 births in the Colony during the year, or 33·5 per 1,000.

Deaths.—There were 1,028 deaths in the Colony during the year, or 17·1 per 1,000.

Marriages.—There were 439 marriages during the year in the whole Colony.

Infantile Mortality.—Figures are only available for New Providence, where there were 60 deaths under one year, or 103·9 per 1,000.

Emigration and Immigration.—During the year 7,578 persons left the Colony and 7,684 were admitted, of whom a large proportion were winter visitors.

IV.—HEALTH.

The climate of the Colony is most conducive to good health, and Nassau, the capital, can boast of an excellent pipe-borne water supply and an up-to-date sewerage system, as well as an ice plant. The city water and the ice manufactured from it are analysed monthly and have shown a high bacteriological standard. There have been no epidemics during the year. Malaria is not common in Nassau and practically all cases are imported from other countries or from the southern islands of the Colony. The Infant Welfare Association, which is financed by public subscriptions and an annual contribution from the Government, is doing excellent work. It employs one trained nurse and holds three clinics a week which are attended by a private practitioner. Much valuable work is also done by the Pre-natal Clinic which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Mission. The Government expended a total sum of £24,408 8s. 10d. on its Medical and Sanitary Departments during the year 1934. The Medical Department had a staff of three Medical Officers and four Nurses at the Bahamas General Hospital in Nassau, and five District Medical Officers at the Out Island stations. The Department operates a general hospital, a lunatic asylum, an infirmary, a venereal clinic, a dental clinic, and a leper compound. The last named, which is located in New Providence, is situated well away from any inhabited part of the island.

The following is a table of the principal groups of diseases treated at the Bahamas General Hospital during the year, together with the mortality arising from these diseases :—

Disease.	*Number of Cases.*	*Number of Deaths.*
Typhoid fever	32	6
Tuberculosis	86	57
Venereal diseases	279	24
Pellagra	29	10
Diseases of the heart	17	8
Diarrhoea and enteritis under two years	29	11
Puerperal eclampsia	3	3
Diseases of infancy	18	13

The above diseases occurred chiefly among the wage-earning population. There are no estates, mines, or factories in the Colony.

V.—HOUSING.

Wage-earners are found almost only in Nassau. Their housing consists principally of wooden two or three-roomed structures with separate outside kitchen and pit-latrine and devoid of other sanitary installations. Water is most generally supplied by wells. Some houses are owned by the occupants; others are rented, the rate being 4s. to 8s. a week. Such houses are invariably built on separate plots, so that there is no crowding of houses or slum condition.

The most urgent need is the replacement of numerous dwellings of such poor construction that they are incapable of withstanding hurricane winds of any great velocity. In an effort to improve on this condition, over 100 houses of special hurricane-proof design were built at public expense in replacement of houses destroyed in the hurricane of September, 1929. The cost of these houses, varying from £45 to £75, was made recoverable by weekly payments to be spread over four years, and it was hoped that the receipts would be available for further construction of houses for the wage-earning class, but the collection of instalments has proved difficult, and the scheme as originally contemplated cannot be developed until a substantial proportion of the capital outlay has been recovered. No building societies exist in the Colony.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The natural resources of the Colony are marine, agricultural, and forest products. Excepting for forest exploitation on Abaco Island, production is conducted individually, there being neither factories, plantations, nor mines anywhere in the Colony.

Of the products of the Colony, sponge, tomatoes, shell, salt, and timber are exported; other commodities at the present time produced only for local consumption. No racial distinction exists between cultivation or other forms of production by persons of European and non-European descent. The former are principally engaged in commerce and the latter mainly in production; but persons of both races may be found engaged in one or the other of these pursuits, and such limited agricultural employment as exists is not restricted entirely to one race.

Most important of the marine products is sponge. Of late years the output has been considerably diminished, due, apparently, to depletion of the supply resulting in part from ruthless fishing, but more especially from wholesale destruction of sponges with each successive hurricane. Artificial sponge culture has been resorted to with encouraging results around Andros and Exuma Islands.

Coarse salt was formerly won in considerable quantities from salt-ponds in several islands. Efforts are now being made to revive the trade and to produce a cleaner grade of salt which will sell more readily than the quality hitherto produced.

Fisheries.—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export. There was an increased export to Florida during the year of crawfish from Bimini, Grand Bahama and Abaco. The Agricultural and Marine Products Board has fixed a size limit and imposed other restrictions in addition to a close season with a view to guarding against the extermination of the crawfish. Conch and tortoise shell find a limited market. There is a steady growth in the shark industry, which is carried on principally at Abaco.

Agriculture.—The rocky nature of the land and the paucity of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the islands have in the past been highly productive of sub-tropical cultivations and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land. Another contributory factor may have been the havoc caused by the hurricanes during the seven years 1926-32.

Apart from staple foods, unfortunately produced in quantities insufficient to meet local demands, the principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market, where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicaps Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now ceased; but exportation to Canada was developed in 1931 and the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax. The industry enjoyed a very successful season this year.

Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, has practically become extinct. The high cost of labour precludes the operation of plantations and decorticating factories, and the salt-water-retted product has practically ceased to find a market.

Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. The fly, however, is now well under control and very successful efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation of citrus. There is every prospect of the production in the near future being more than sufficient to meet local requirements.

Stock and poultry raising is conducted on a very limited scale for local consumption, but is hardly sufficient to supply the local demand.

The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years :—

		1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Cascarilla bark	lb.	89,600	31,360	24,528	27,388	48,944
	£	3,538	1,704	1,464	946	1,644
Tomatoes, raw	m. bushels	169	99	165	120	112
	£	89,336	51,502	75,311	26,451	20,444
Sisal hemp	tons	308	21	81	22	158
	£	5,153	244	484	162	1,371
Abaco pine timber ...	m. feet	281	2,010	5,466	4,347	1,649
	£	5,206	10,015	26,799	22,724	7,403
Woods, other	tons	69	29	51	130	30
	£	274	110	261	605	120
Shell, tortoise	lb.	4,233	4,978	5,524	3,622	6,543
	£	7,003	6,165	6,677	3,510	6,782
Shell, conch	no.	82,000	58,869	38,603	34,653	84,567
	£	354	396	281	196	343
Sponge	m. lb.	550	684	683	864	679
	£	75,351	85,340	77,992	84,562	58,250
Salt	m. bushels	88	53	7	79	88
	£	876	970	126	765	1,087

The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation and the quantity of live stock in the Colony :—

Crops.	*Acres.*	*Live stock.*	*Number.*
Citrus	260	Horses	1,894
Cocoanuts	603	Horned cattle ...	2,179
Onions	70	Sheep	17,505
Pineapples	29	Goats	10,801
Sisal	4,572	Swine	4,702
Tomatoes	1,158	Poultry	38,078
Other Products ...	19,327		
Total	26,019	Total	75,159

It is difficult to assess the number of persons engaged in agriculture. Practically everyone not engaged in commerce cultivates in a small way for his own needs. On the other hand, comparatively few live solely by cultivation of the soil.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,662,423	1,249,827	940,063	929,731	728,299
Exports	334,986	287,562	263,886	180,151	202,480
Total (excluding specie) ...	1,997,409	1,537,389	1,203,949	1,109,882	930,779

The values of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period were as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	323,259	264,880	228,336	251,294	182,531
Canada	511,010	359,772	221,444	261,558	135,100
United States of America	606,144	438,596	334,501	259,935	267,773

The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	675,639	519,896	275,926	333,408	146,302
Wines	42,115	21,991	14,226	13,755	12,695
Cordials and liqueurs ...	9,535	7,071	4,670	4,139	3,324
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.	19,187	17,664	17,336	13,469	12,442
Food-stuffs	292,643	236,621	240,569	227,204	187,828
Lumber and shingles ...	44,692	16,242	12,239	14,671	15,822
Boots and shoes	18,982	14,550	13,586	13,886	12,541
Cotton manufactures ...	42,558	35,742	34,559	26,868	30,469
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of.	30,724	19,709	7,089	5,864	11,142
Oils	49,414	42,641	39,018	32,419	32,022
Motor cars, trucks, and parts.	18,016	12,801	7,345	15,235	19,25

The principal exports of local produce were :—

	Quantities.	*Value.*
		£
Tomatoes (m. bush.)	112	20,444
Cascarilla Bark (cwt.)	437	1,644
Lumber (m. feet)	1,649	7,403
Tortoise shell (lb.)	6,543	6,782
Sponge (m. lb.)	678	57,970

Of these products, cascarilla bark was exported to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, tomatoes to Canada, and tortoise shell to the United Kingdom. The lumber export was to Jamaica and Turks Island. Sponge was exported to eight countries of Europe, and to the United States of America, Canada and Japan, the major portion going to the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Holland.

Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct freight service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a day's steaming. In these circumstances it is explicable that there has been a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States in the past; but, as a result of the Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion has steadily increased, and of late, there has been a strong tendency to import from the United Kingdom. Generally speaking, increasing interest in trade with the Empire has manifested itself, and only the difficulties of communication retard progress in this direction.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The following are the wages paid to Government employees during a working week of five days :—

	Per Day.
	Shs.
Blacksmiths	17
Carpenters	8 to 10
Labourers	3 to 5½
Masons	6 to 8
Painters	4 to 6
Plumbers	10 to 12
Truck drivers	6 to 7

Government and private employees usually work 8½ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive from 10s. to 20s. per week and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 1s. 6d. to 3s. a day.

The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, and sugar, and he spends about 9d. a day on his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

Average cost of living for officials.—The cost of living in New Providence would be the same whether the officer lived in the town (Nassau) or in the country. In any case the cost is very high. Only wealthy persons could live in the first-class hotels, which are open only in the winter. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding-house for £6 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £450 a year. Under similar conditions a married man with his wife might live for about £600 a year. A bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case, without children, a married couple should be able to live on about £600 a year. In the Out Islands there are no hotels or boarding-houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.—Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The average cost per pupil on the roll for the year was £1 10s. 3d. The total amount voted to the Board of Education in respect to the Financial Year 1934-35 was £16,290.

The Board maintained 55 schools, and grants-in-aid were paid to 59 other schools. The total pupil roll was 11,246. Owing to the scattered population, this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate. Not a few children are out of reach of any school, and in some localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government, prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training. This is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. Sewing lessons for girl pupils have been introduced in 49 schools, and a centre for cooking classes for girls and one for woodwork classes for boys have been established in Nassau.

The Board employed 90 teachers (principal and assistant), among whom were eight from other West Indian Colonies, and in addition 59 grant-in-aid teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education, and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies, which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government.

Welfare Institutions.—An infirmary, and lunatic and leper asylums, the inmates of which are admitted free of charge, are maintained by the Government and are under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it, and free rations were issued to 567 paupers in the Colony during the year 1934. The Infant Welfare Association and the Pre-Natal Clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, which receives a Government subsidy, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks, housemaids, and hotel waiters, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service.

There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many Friendly Societies existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are four cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

During the year, 1,955 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 3,678,550, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number, 1,036 vessels, with a total tonnage of 3,622,159, called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Leyland and Harrison Lines and the Royal Mail Line. The Pacific Steamship Navigation Company has inaugurated a service with this Colony, and during the year 1934, twenty-two calls were made at Nassau by ships of this line which landed 179 and embarked 125 passengers. This service fulfils a long-felt want for direct communication with the United Kingdom at moderate cost and by comfortable ships which perform the voyage within fourteen days. A weekly passenger and freight service to New York is maintained in the winter months by the Munson Line, which is under contract with the Bahamas Government; a passenger service to Miami is also maintained by this steamship line. The Canadian National Steamships vessels call at Nassau every two weeks en route from Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda to Jamaica; in the winter these vessels also call at Boston. A weekly service for carriage of fruit is maintained by the same line during the tomato season. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 17 vessels of 16,614 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports. During the tourist season from November to April numerous large cruise vessels call at Nassau.

A daily service between Nassau and Miami by planes carrying 20 passengers has been maintained by the Pan-American Airways Incorporated during the winter. During the summer this service was performed with 14 and 20 passenger planes, twice weekly—Mondays and Fridays.

Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular mail, passenger and freight services by such vessels are maintained to all islands, under Government contract.

There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the British Board of Trade and others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

Roads.—In New Providence there are good roads, and considerable numbers of motors and carriages are in use, over 1,135 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic, and most of the roads are impassable for vehicles. In accordance with the general policy adopted with respect to development of the Out Islands, road development has been undertaken on one island at a time. A good earth road, about 70 miles in length, in the island of Eleuthera has done much to facilitate agricultural development on that island. A similar road has been roughly constructed throughout the length of Long Island.

Post Office.—The various postal services have been well maintained during the year. The cash-on-delivery system is in use in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass through the United States of America, as there is no direct mail service. Domestic parcel post was established some years ago, and all district post offices are money-order offices. The issue of money-orders on United States post offices was suspended owing to the fluctuations in exchange.

Telegraph communication is effected by wireless services, maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, New Providence, with eighteen stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

The Nassau station maintains continuous watch on the following wave lengths:—600 metres (500 KC/s) with alternative waves on 659 metres (455 KC/s), ICW and CW, for marine communication; 2,176 (137·9 KC/s), at 35 to 45 minutes past each hour; 17·61 metres (17,040 KC/s), 18·26 metres (16,430 KC/s) at the hour to ten minutes past between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., odd hours. 24 metres (12,500 KC/s) at the hour to ten minutes past, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. even hours. 36 metres (8,333 KC/s) at the hour to ten minutes past 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. each hour. High frequency communications for point to point services are on 96 metres (3,126 KC/s), 90 metres

(3,331 KC/s), 70 metres (4,260 KC/s), 52 metres (5,769 KC/s), and on 54 metres (5,495 KC/s), and 96 metres (3,126 KC/s) for aircraft and airport communications. High frequency transmitters and receivers have also been supplied to the twelve most important Out Island stations and operate fixed services with Nassau and each other on 56·6 metres (5,300 KC/s). The remaining six Out Island stations communicate on 56·6 metres (5,300 KC/s) low power CW, with each other. In addition Inagua is equipped for marine work on 600 metres (500 KC/s) with an alternative wave of 659 metres (455 KC/s). Long distance telephone on short wave 66·44 metres (4,512·5 KC/s) is in operation at Nassau connecting through Hialeah, Florida, to all points in the United States, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Hawaii, Great Britain, Europe, Bermuda and ships at sea so fitted, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

The Out Island stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes and for the dissemination of storm warnings.

Telephones.—In Nassau there is a telephone system owned and operated by the Bahamas Government with 1,01_ subscribers. Of the other islands of the Bahamas group, Eleuthera has some 40 miles of telephone line, Cat Island, 30 miles of line and Long Island 45 miles of line, connecting the principal settlements to the wireless stations on the islands in question.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.—The only bank doing business in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November, 1934, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £669,414. The Post Office Savings Bank had at the end of June, 1934, 6,696 depositors with deposits to their credit amounting to £55,492. There are as yet no Agricultural or Co-operative Banks.

Currency.—The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declares British sterling to be the money of account and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £73,400 in local Government currency notes of 4s., 10s., and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £25,000 in British silver coin. United States currency is not legal tender in the Colony, but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

Weights and Measures.—By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department superintends the maintenance and construction of all public works, including the water supply, as well as sewerage and drainage works, lighthouses, etc., on behalf of the Public Board of Works. This Board, which consists of five members, is appointed annually by the Governor, and all funds for public works are voted to it by the Legislature. The Department also supervises the carrying out of work for other Public Boards and for the Government.

No important works of construction were carried out by the Public Works Department during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Colony is the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the Local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

The establishment of the Colony's armed Police Force is four officers and 125 other ranks, but owing to the need for economy the active strength of the Force has now been reduced to four officers and 110 other ranks. The Force is stationed chiefly at Nassau. Four constables are stationed on the Out Islands, together with a number of local and district constables who are responsible for the policing of their various districts.

All long-term prisoners are sent to the central prison in Nassau, which accommodates 102 male and 16 female prisoners.

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being pulmonary, venereal, and skin diseases, and constipation.

There is no separate provision for juveniles in the central prison, but this class of offender is committed to the Industrial School, a reformatory, managed by a Visiting Committee, where agriculture and other crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary schooling.

Payment of fines by instalments is permitted in suitable cases, but the necessity seldom arises. The Penal Code provides for placing offenders on probation, but there are no regular probation officers, and it has been found that the practice of the binding over of adult offenders on their own recognizances is sufficiently effective.

The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1934 :—

Imprisoned	243
Whipped	89
Fined	897
Bound over or otherwise disposed of	698
Discharged	216
Committed for trial in Superior Court	37
Total	2,180

A daily average of prisoners in the Nassau Prison during 1934 was 123.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the more important laws passed during the year 1934 :—

The Importation of Textiles Quotas Act, 1934, the object of which is to protect British trade, provides for the institution of a system of import quotas to be applied to certain textiles.

The Tariff Amendment Act, 1934, provides for the entry without duty of motor cars and motor boats by temporary residents and extends the Second Schedule of the principal Act to include certain manufactures from woven fabrics.

The Imperial Lighthouse Dues Act, 1934, was passed to legalize the collection of Imperial Lighthouse Dues in this Colony in respect of ships passing or deriving benefit from Imperial lighthouses or buoys situate in the vicinity of the Colony. The Act was passed by both branches of the Legislature but reserved by the Governor for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

The Immigrants (Amendment) Act, 1934, revises the definition of " undesirable," provides for the medical examination of a passenger or immigrant at the request of the Immigration Officer, applies the principal Act to persons arriving by aircraft, provides for the lodging of an appeal to the Governor if permission to land is withheld by the Immigration Officer under section 10 of the principal Act, and effects other desirable amendments to the original Act.

The Opticians Act, 1934, makes provision for the registration of opticians and regulates the practise of sight-testing and other matters incidental thereto.

In addition to the above Laws, 14 important Agreements, which had been negotiated by the Governor with the object of providing improved hotel, steamship and air services, in connexion with the tourist traffic, were approved by the Legislature.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1929-30	556,799	578,584
1930-31	455,370	426,900
1931-32	386,374	422,706
1932-33	352,160	326,238
1933-34	338,061	310,381
	2,088,764	2,064,809

The actual excess of revenue over expenditure for this period was £23,955.

The Public Debt on 31st March amounted to £180,000, which sum was raised locally by the sale of debentures. Provision is made for the redemption of these debentures by annual contribution from the revenue to a sinking fund, which amounted on 31st March, 1934, to £38,825.

Investments in England in Trustee Securities, bearing interest at approximately 4½ per cent., and amounting at the end of the financial year to £200,000, represent the liquid assets of the Colony. Other principal assets are represented by loans to two hotels to the sum of £647,000, secured by mortgages on the hotels.

Apart from Real Property Tax, which yielded £4,720 during the year, including collections of certain arrears in respect of previous years, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from the following sources :—

	Estimate 1934-35.
	£
Customs	160,560
Port, Wharf and Harbour Dues	9,100
Licences and Internal Revenue	14,040
Fees of Court, etc.	18,240
Posts and Telegraphs	24,550
Interest	24,690
Electric Power Receipts	32,125

An excise duty of 6d. a hundred is imposed on cigarettes, but with this exception no excise duties are levied. Stamp duties are imposed on instruments used in civil proceedings in the Supreme Court or in commercial or other transactions, and are based on the value of the transaction.

The Tariff Amendment Act, assented to on 19th December, 1932, provides a customs revenue of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on most imports, though there are some items specifically taxed, while alcoholic beverages and tobacco pay a much higher rate.

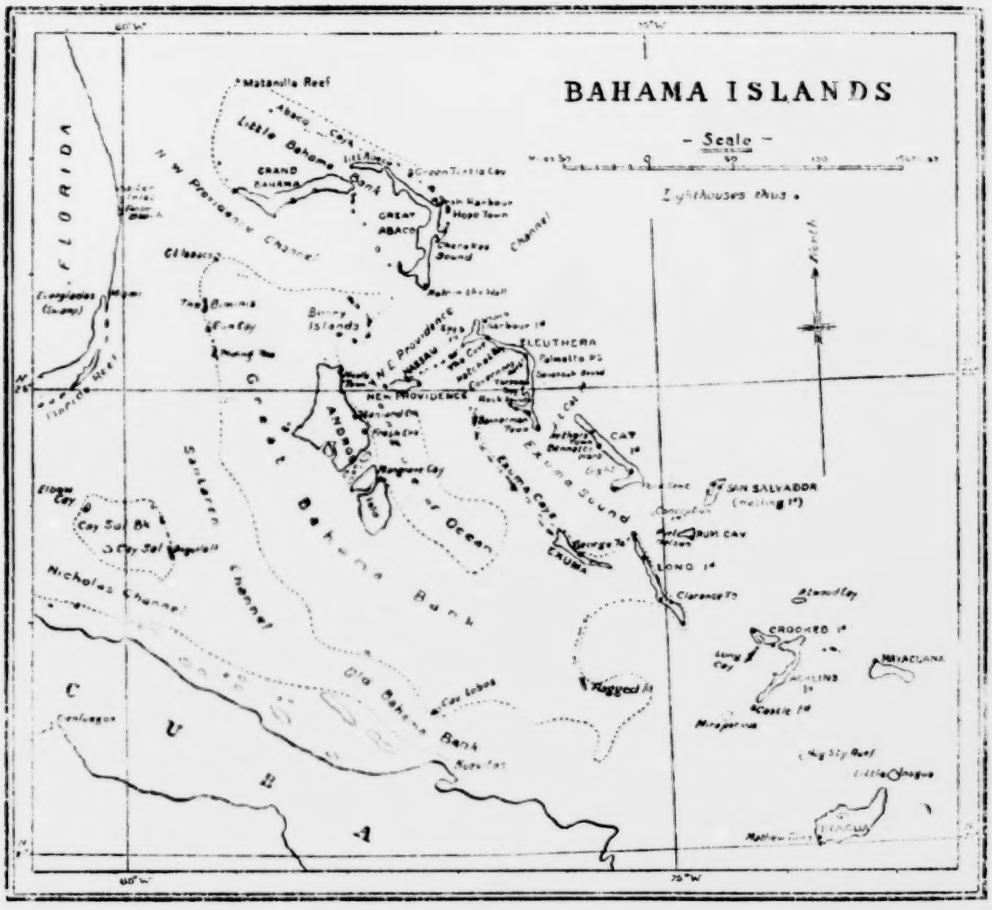
A sliding scale on agricultural products devised to protect articles capable of production in the Colony is included. There is an export tax on pineapple and sisal plants, wrecked goods, and articles imported for a temporary purpose and exempted from duty under certain conditions. Chief among the exemptions from duty are printed books, flying machines, and essentials to agriculture and to the manufacture of native products. A list of prohibited imports injurious to health and morals is included.

The Imperial Preference Act was repealed during the year 1932, and a new tariff enacted to accord to British goods such preferences as were provided for under the terms of the Ottawa Agreement. By this Act a preference of 50 per cent. is accorded to British importations; specific exceptions to this general preference are, however, included.

APPENDIX.

Bahamas Publications, etc.

Title.	*Price.*	*Agents for Sale.*
Laws:		The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, England. Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.
Revised Edition, volumes 1 and 2. Cloth bound.	2 guineas per volume.	
Bound half calf	3 guineas per volume.	
Annual volumes for years subsequent to 1928.	½d. per printed page.	
Single copies of Acts	,, ,,	
Rules, Regulations and Orders in Council.	,, ,,	
Blue Books...	10s.	
Official Gazette	½d. per printed page. Annual subscription, 12s. 6d.	
Departmental Reports	½d. per printed page.	
Census 1931	2s.	
Atlas with maps of Bahama Islands ...	10s.	
Bahamas Hand Book, 1926 (by Mary Moseley, M.B.E.).	10s.	
Public Health and Medical Conditions in New Providence (by Sir Wilfred Beveridge, K.B.E., C.B., M.B., C.M., (Edin.) D.P.H., (Camb.) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).	10s.	
Law Report Volume 1, 1900–1906 (Edited by Kenneth Solomon, K.C., Member of Bahamas Bar).	6s.	
Sand-fly Report, 1932 (by Dr. J. G. Myers, Sc. D., F.Z.S., F.E.S.).	9d.	Colonial Secretary, Nassau, Bahamas.
Memorandum on Agriculture in Bahamas (by Hon. Charles Dundas, C.M.G., O.B.E.).	2s.	
Memorandum on Historic Forts of Nassau (by Sir Bede E. H. Clifford. K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O.).	1s.	
Law Finder—A Guide to Legislation in force in the Bahama Islands on the 1st November, 1934 (by J. H. Jarrett, K.C.).	2s. 6d.	



(33253—48) Wt. 2555—3546 750 1/36 P. St. G 377/7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.
Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*)

MALTA.
Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s.* (4*s.* 4*d.*).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

KENYA.
Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3*s.* (3*s.* 4*d.*).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

SWAZILAND.
Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*).

MALAYA.
Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

SEYCHELLES.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

MAURITIUS.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

WEST INDIES.
Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

BRITISH HONDURAS.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

BRITISH GUIANA.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

PALESTINE.
Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 3*d.*).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON: Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2;
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street; MANCHESTER 1: York Street;
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent; BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street;
or through any Bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.

Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices obtainable from the Sale Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

S. O. Code No. 58-1738

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1768

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

BAHAMAS, 1935

(For Reports for 1933 and 1934 see Nos. 1661 and 1738 respectively (Price 1s. 0d. each).)

Crown Copyright Reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;
26 York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any bookseller

1936

Price 1s. 3d. net

PRINTED AND
PUBLISHED IN
GREAT BRITAIN

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE, 1932.
[Colonial No. 95.] £1 5*s*. (£1 5*s*. 9*d*.).

CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE.
[Colonial No. 97.] (3 volumes.)
Part I—Africa. 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.)
Part II—Eastern, Mediterranean, and Pacific. 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.)
Part III—West Indies. 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.)

COLONIAL REGULATIONS.
Regulations for His Majesty's Colonial Service.
Part I—Public Officers. [Colonial No. 88-1.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).
Part II—Public Business. [Colonial No. 88-2] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 4*d*.).

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE LIST.
1st Edition, January, 1933. [Colonial No. 80.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Supplement to 1st Edition, 1st January, 1934.
[Colonial No. 92.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

COLONIAL SERVICE.
Report of Committee on Leave and Passage Conditions for the Colonial Service. [Cmd. 4730.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
Fifth Annual Report covering the period 1st April, 1933, to 31st March, 1934. [Cmd. 4634.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).

EMPIRE SURVEY.
Conference of Empire Survey Officers, 1931.
[Colonial No. 70.] £1 (£1 0*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, OTTAWA, 1932.
Summary of Proceedings and copies of Trade Agreements.
[Cmd. 4174.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 4175.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION.
Report of Imperial Committee, 1933. [Cmd. 4335.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Report of Royal Commission, with Appendices and Maps.
[Cmd. 4480.] 5*s*. 6*d*. (5*s*. 11*d*.).
Papers relating to the Report. [Cmd. 4479.] 2*d*. (2½*d*.).

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3234.] 6*s*. (6*s*. 5*d*.).
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit to East Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3378.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).
Report of Joint Select Committee. H.C. 156.
Vol. I—Report and Proceedings ... 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.).
Vol. II—Minutes and Evidence ... £1 10*s*. (£1 10*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. III—Appendices ... ... 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 11*d*.).

KENYA LAND COMMISSION.
Report, September, 1933. [Cmd. 4556.] 11*s*. (11*s*. 9*d*.).
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 91.]
Vol. I ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. II ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Vol. III ... ... £2 (£2 0*s*. 9*d*.).
Summary of Conclusions reached by His Majesty's Government.
[Cmd. 4580.] 2*d*. (2½*d*.).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the administration of Justice in Kenya, Uganda, and the Tanganyika Territory in Criminal Matters.
[Cmd. 4623.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 96.] £1 (£1 0*s*. 6*d*.).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON: Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2;
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street; MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street;
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent; BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street;
or through any bookseller

Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS FOR 1935

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate, and History	1
II.	Government	4
III.	Population	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	8
VI.	Production	9
VII.	Commerce	12
VIII.	Wages and Cost of Living	13
IX.	Education and Welfare Institutions	14
X.	Communications and Transport	15
XI.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures	17
XII.	Public Works	18
XIII.	Justice, Police, and Prisons	19
XIV.	Legislation	21
XV.	Public Finance and Taxation	21
XVI.	Miscellaneous	23
	Appendix—Bahamas Publications	25
	Sketch Map.	

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of the Bahamas, a chain of islands, cays, rocks and reefs lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba, form the northern group of the West Indian Archipelago which stretches in a curve from the southern coast of North America to the northern coast of South America, and consists of the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles. Extending over an area of 760 miles the Bahamas comprise nearly 700 islands and over 2,000 cays and rocks. The aggregate land surface of the group is 4,400 square miles, which is slightly greater than that of Jamaica, the largest of the British West Indian Islands.

New Providence, although not one of the larger islands, is the most important, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and is inhabited by nearly one-quarter of the total population of the Colony. The island is about 21 miles in length from east to west, and seven miles in breadth from north to south. It is mos flat and covered with brush wood, and has several extensive lagoo

The islands are mostly long, narrow and low-lying, and except in the cases of Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama, not well wooded.

There are extensive pine forests on Andros, Grand Bahama, and Abaco, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood is to be found on the last-mentioned island.

The ground is very rocky, but there are patches of excellent land containing rich fertile soil, and there are extensive tracts of land in some of the islands which are suitable for pasture.

There are no mountains, and very few hills, but the islands are by no means lacking in beauty. The fine white sand studded with powdered pink coral, and the ever changing and wonderful colouring of the sea, makes a picture which is not easily forgotten.

Climate.

The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September and October. The total rainfall for 1935 in New Providence was 53·65 inches.

The greatest heat is experienced during July, August and September, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. Although the heat during the summer months is trying, and the mosquitos and sandflies are troublesome, the islands are never unhealthy. The malaria mosquito is unknown in the Colony.

History.

At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647, a Company of " Eleutherian Adventurers " was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670, yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extemely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673, one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690, another was deposed and imprisoned; and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680, the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba. In 1703, a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed. In 1776, however, a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony, which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the "blockade" imposed against the Confederate States.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

"The Eleutherian Adventurers", who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them a conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The

Charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, was created as a separate Council by Royal Letters Patent in 1841.

The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence, or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred in June 1928, and in May 1935.

No forms of local Government exist.

III.—POPULATION.

The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last Census (1931).*
Abaco and Cays	776	4,233
Acklins	133	1,765
Andros	1,600	7,071
Berry Islands	10	222
Bimini	8	736
Cat Island	160	3,959
Cay Sal and Cay Lobos ...	1¼	20
Crooked Island	76	1,329
Eleuthera	158	6,168
Exuma and Cays	80	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Harbour Island	1½	793
Inagua	560	667
Long Island	130	4,515
Long Cay	8	144
Mayaguana	90	518
New Providence	60	19,756
Ragged Island and Cays ...	4	424
Rum Cay	29	252
San Salvador or Watlings ...	60	675
Spanish Wells	½	566
	4,375¼	59,828

The estimated population of the whole Colony on 31st December 1935, was 64,982.

The total population is thus approximately 65,000, mostly of the African race. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, many of them being descendants of soldiers who settled in the Bahamas after the War of American Independence. English is the only language spoken.

Births.—There were 2,173 births in the Colony during the year, or 33·4 per 1,000.

Deaths.—There were 1,121 deaths in the Colony during the year, or 17·3 per 1,000.

Marriages.—There were 535 marriages during the year in the whole Colony.

Infantile Mortality.—Figures are only available for New Providence, where there were 79 deaths under one year, or 128·4 per 1,000.

Emigration and Immigration.—During the year 8,774 persons left the Colony, and 8,941 were admitted, of whom a large proportion were winter visitors.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Act (Chapter 258), and strict supervision is exercised by the authorities to prevent undesirable immigrants and passengers arriving in the Colony.

IV.—HEALTH.

The climate of the Colony is most conducive to good health, and Nassau, the capital, can boast of an excellent pipe-borne water supply, and an up-to-date sewerage system, as well as an ice plant. The city water and the ice manufactured from it are analysed weekly, and have shown a high bacteriological standard.

Medical.

The Medical Service is administered by a Health Board, of which the Chief Medical Officer is Chairman.

The medical problems in the Bahamas are chiefly those arising out of poverty—syphilis, tuberculosis and pellagra, in that order of importance. Otherwise the Colony is a remarkably healthy one. Malaria has disappeared, typhoid is fast disappearing, hook-worm is unknown, diphtheria sporadic, and the infectious diseases are unimportant.

The Government expended on medical care during 1935 the sum of £19,920, and on sanitation £6,024, or 9·1 per cent. of the Colony's revenue.

The medical needs of the Colony in New Providence are met by :—

(*a*) The Bahamas General Hospital, which has a full time resident staff of three doctors, a European matron, two European sisters, and a staff of 116 (all ranks).

(*b*) The service of the hospital is furnished largely free of charge. There is an out-patient department, in which 22,105 persons were treated in 1935, a general hospital which had 3,036 admissions, a lunatic asylum, infirmary, dental clinic and venereal clinic.

(*c*) There are well equipped X-ray and bacteriological laboratories.

The total cost per patient at the Bahamas General Hospital is 4s. per day.

The following is a table of the principal groups of diseases treated at the Bahamas General Hospital during the year, together with the mortality arising from these diseases :—

Disease.	*Number of cases.*	*Number of deaths.*
Typhoid fever	19	6
Tuberculosis...	129	53
Venereal diseases	523	42
Pellagra	25	9
Diseases of the heart	32	16
Diarrhoea and enteritis under two years	27	12
Puerperal eclampsia	2	0
Diseases of infancy...	57	32

The above diseases occurred chiefly among the wage-earning population.

The Out Islands are served medically by four Government District Medical Officers, who are stationed at the larger and more important islands, but who tour the other settlements at intervals. Licensed midwives and unqualified medical practitioners assist in dispensing medical aid.

Leprosy.—There is a leper colony, which has twelve inmates, situated in the Pine Barrens, which is a considerable distance from the inhabited parts of New Providence.

Child Welfare.—

(*a*) Midwives are given six months training at the Bahamas General Hospital, and then sent back to the various Out Islands.

(*b*) Infant welfare clinics are held tri-weekly in New Providence. These are attended by a private practitioner. A full time welfare nurse is employed to supervise these clinics and do house to house visiting.

(*c*) There is an ante-natal clinic conducted by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity.

(*d*) There is a small " Good Will Centre " for girls supported by public subscription.

(*e*) The Government conducts a Boys' Industrial School of some fifty boys.

Sanitation.

(*a*) The policies of the Health Board are carried out by a Chief Sanitary Inspector who holds a qualification from the Royal Sanitary Institute. There are four sanitary inspectors for New Providence, and in the Out Islands there are local Boards of Health with the Island Commissioner usually acting as chairman.

(*b*) Chlorinated city water is examined bacteriologically once a week, and increasing numbers of houses are being connected to the system. The old open wells for supplying public drinking water have been done away with as far as possible, and public standpipes installed. Water-borne sewage is disposed of by the " activated sludge " process, and crude sewage is no longer discharged into the harbour to any extent.

(*c*) Both raw and pasteurized milk is sold, but a high standard of quality is insisted upon.

(*d*) Meat is inspected by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the sale of food in the Public Market is supervised by a full-time officer.

(*e*) The sale of food is permitted only in licensed premises, and food handlers come up bi-annually for medical examination.

The Health Department has continued to take care of street cleaning and garbage collection.

Co-operating with the Board of Pilotage, sand dredged from the harbour of Nassau has been made available to fill in low-lying areas, and a marked improvement in the drainage of the Pond District in Nassau has been effected thereby.

The general standard of hygiene in New Providence is quite good.

There are no estates, mines or factories in the Colony.

V.—HOUSING.

Wage-earners are found almost only in Nassau. Their housing consists principally of wooden two or three-roomed structures with separate outside kitchen and pit-latrine, and devoid of other sanitary installations. Water in Nassau is now supplied almost exclusively from public drinking fountains (maintained from public funds), connected with the City's pure water supply.

Some houses are owned by the occupants; others are rented, the rate being 4s. to 8s. a week. Such houses are invariably built on separate plots, so that there is no crowding of houses and there are no slum areas.

The most urgent need is the replacement of numerous dwellings which are of such poor construction that they are incapable of withstanding hurricane winds of any great velocity. In an effort to improve on this condition, over 100 houses of special hurricane-proof design were built at public expense in replacement of houses

destroyed in the hurricane of September 1929. The cost of these houses, varying from £45 to £75, was made recoverable by weekly payments to be spread over four years, and it was hoped that the receipts would be available for further construction of houses for the wage-earning class, but the collection of instalments has proved difficult, and the scheme as originally contemplated cannot be developed until a substantial proportion of the capital outlay has been recovered.

No building societies exist in the Colony.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The natural resources of the Colony are marine, agricultural, and forest products. Except for forest exploitation on Abaco Island, production is conducted individually, there being neither factories, plantations, nor mines anywhere in the Colony.

Of the products of the Colony, sponge, tomatoes, shell, salt and timber are exported, other commodities are at the present time produced only for local consumption.

No actual distinction exists between cultivation or other forms of production by persons of European and non-European descent. The former are principally engaged in commerce and the latter mainly in production; but persons of both races may be found engaged in one or the other of these pursuits, and such limited agricultural employment as exists is not restricted entirely to one race.

The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation, and the quantity of live stock in the Colony :—

Crops.	*Acres.*	*Live stock.*	*Number.*
Citrus	310	Horses... ...	2,070
Coconuts ...	451	Horned cattle...	2,516
Onions	117	Sheep	17,554
Pineapples ...	29	Goats	9,282
Sisal	5,148	Swine	5,080
Tomatoes ...	857	Poultry ...	34,467
Other products ...	16,742		
Total	23,654	Total	70,969

Sponge.—The sponge industry was once one of the major industries of the Colony, but during past years due to depletion of sponge beds by hurricanes, and lack of conservation of the young sponges by the sponge fishers, the industry has been adversely affected to a serious extent. During 1935 a sum of £21,000 was made available by the Colonial Development Fund for the rehabilitation of the sponge industry, and the Bahamas Government is contributing toward this effort to re-establish the industry. Artificial sponge planting has been conducted on a small experimental scale, and satisfactory results have been obtained.

Salt.—Coarse salt was formerly won in considerable quantities from salt-ponds in several islands. Efforts are now being made to revive the trade and to produce a cleaner grade of salt which will sell more readily than the quality hitherto produced.

Fisheries.—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export.

Crawfish have always been plentiful in these waters, and have been used for supplying the local market, but during the past few years, owing to the scarcity of crawfish at the Florida Cays, the American market has turned to the Bahamas, and during the past year a large quantity of crawfish was exported in the shell to Florida. Two canneries were also established for canning the crawfish, one at Nassau and one at West End, Grand Bahama. The industry is being carefully controlled and safeguarded by the Government, so as to avoid any serious depletion of the crawfish beds.

Sisal.—Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, became practically extinct, but during the year 1935 there was a temporary revival of the sisal market in the United States, which enabled merchants to dispose of the bulk of their accumulated stocks. Six hundred and seven tons were exported at an estimated value of £3,709. Revised Regulations were issued which required sisal buyers to be licensed, and the production, grading and packing of sisal is required to conform to the standards fixed by the Agricultural Board.

Agriculture.—The rocky nature of the land and the paucity of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the islands have in the past been highly productive of sub-tropical cultivations, and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land.

On the Out Islands the people have always on, small farms, grown sufficient produce for their own needs. In Nassau, however, it has been necessary to import large quantities of fruit and vegetables.

During the past few years the Government has tried to encourage a greater interest in agriculture. Agricultural instructors have been placed at various islands and seed distributed free of charge. In an effort to foster agriculture it was decided to open a Government Produce Exchange for the marketing of produce from the Out Islands. The manager of the Exchange was during the latter part of 1935 sent on a tour of the Out Islands to lecture the people on the value of the Exchange, and to try to encourage them to send produce to the Nassau market in larger quantities, and thus obviate the necessity for importing fruit and vegetables. Local Farmers Associations were formed, and it is hoped that the agricultural output will be greatly increased.

The principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality, and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market, where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicaps Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now ceased; but exportation to Canada was developed in 1931, and the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax. The industry enjoyed a most successful season this year.

It is difficult to assess the number of persons engaged in agriculture. Practically everyone not engaged in commerce cultivates in a small way for his own needs. On the other hand, comparatively few live solely by cultivation of the soil.

Citrus.—Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida, and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. The fly, however, is now well under control and very successful efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation of citrus. There is every prospect of the production in the near future being more than sufficient to meet local requirements.

Stock and poultry.—Stock and poultry raising is conducted on a very limited scale for local consumption, but is hardly sufficient to supply the local demand.

Export of local produce.—The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years:—

		1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Cascarilla bark ...	... lb.	31,360	24,528	27,388	48,944	49,056
	£	1,704	1,464	946	1,644	1,466
Tomatoes, raw ...	... m. bushels	99	165	120	112	106
	£	51,502	75,311	26,451	20,444	26,064
Sisal hemp ...	... tons	21	81	22	158	607
	£	244	484	162	1,371	3,709
Abaco pine timber	... m. feet	2,010	5,466	4,347	1,649	2,861
	£	10,015	26,799	22,724	7,403	14,938
Woods, other ...	... tons	29	51	130	30	226
	£	110	261	695	120	820
Shell, tortoise ...	... lb.	4,978	5,524	3,622	6,543	6,290
	£	6,165	6,677	3,510	6,782	4,610
Shell, conch ...	... no.	58,869	38,603	34,653	84,567	66,000
	£	396	281	196	343	339
Sponge	... m. lb.	684	683	864	679	745
	£	85,340	77,992	84,562	58,250	51,954
Salt	... m. bushels	53	7	79	88	15
	£	970	126	765	1,087	193

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,249,827	940,063	929,731	728,299	718,215
Exports	287,562	263,886	180,151	202,480	125,428
Total (excluding specie) ...	1,537,389	1,203,949	1,109,882	930,779	843,643

The values of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period were as follows :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	264,880	228,336	251,294	182,531	169,866
Canada	359,772	221,444	261,558	135,100	98,949
United States of America	438,596	334,501	259,935	267,773	317,612

The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	519,896	275,926	333,408	146,302	56,918
Wines	21,991	14,226	13,755	12,695	5,862
Cordials and liqueurs ...	7,071	4,670	4,139	3,324	2,192
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.	17,664	17,336	13,429	12,442	13,374
Food-stuffs	236,621	240,569	227,204	187,828	219,954
Lumber and shingles ...	16,242	12,239	14,671	15,822	16,864
Boots and shoes	14,550	13,586	13,886	12,541	12,563
Cotton manufactures ...	35,742	34,559	26,868	30,469	35,450
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of.	19,709	7,089	5,864	11,142	6,964
Oils	42,641	39,018	32,419	32,022	20,661
Motor cars, trucks, and parts.	12,801	7,345	15,235	19,253	29,659

The principal exports of local produce were :—

	Quantities.	*Value.*
		£
Tomatoes (m. bush.)	106	26,064
Cascarilla bark (cwt.)	438	1,466
Lumber (m. feet)	2,861	14,938
Tortoise shell (lb.)	6,290	4,610
Sponge (m. lb.)	745	51,954

Of these products, cascarilla bark was exported to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, tomatoes to Canada, and tortoise shell to the United Kingdom. The lumber export was to Jamaica and Turks Island. Sponge was exported to several countries of Europe, and to the United States of America, Canada and Japan, the major portion going to the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Holland.

Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct freight service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas, and still longer on the return journey. New York, on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a day's steaming. In these circumstances it is understandable that there has been a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States in the past. As a result of the Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, however, the volume of trade with the Dominion has steadily increased, and of late there has been a strong tendency to import from the United Kingdom. Generally speaking, increasing interest in trade with the Empire has manifested itself, and only the difficulties of communication retard progress in this direction.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No material change in wages took place during the year, and the following are the wages paid to Government employees during a working week of five days:—

	Per day. (*Shillings.*)
Blacksmiths	17
Carpenters	8 to 10
Labourers	3 to 5½
Masons	6 to 8
Painters	4 to 6
Plumbers	6 to 10
Truck drivers	6 to 7

Government and private employees usually work 8½ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive from 10s. to 20s. per week, and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 1s. 6d. to 3s. a day.

The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, and sugar, and he spends about 9d. a day on his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

Average cost of living for officials.—The cost of living in New Providence is high. The tariff in the first-class hotels varies from £2 per day inclusive to £4 per day during the winter season, and in the smaller hotels the tariff during the same period is approximately £2 per day inclusive. During the period May to November inclusive, accommodation may be obtained in the smaller hotels for approximately £1 4s. 0d. per day. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding house for £5 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £400 a year.

A furnished bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case a married couple, without children should be able to live on about £600 a year. Unfurnished bungalows can be obtained for about £100 a year.

In the Out Islands there are no hotels or boarding houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The average cost per pupil on the roll for the year was £1 10s. The total amount voted to the Board of Education in respect of the financial year 1935-6 was £16,765, exclusive of £1,325 voted for repairs to or re-erection of school buildings which had been damaged or destroyed by hurricane and £600 for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

The Board maintained 55 schools, and grants-in-aid were paid to 62 other schools. The total pupil roll was 11,175. Owing to the scattered population, this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate. A number of children are out of reach of any school, and in some localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government, prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training. This is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. Sewing lessons for girl pupils have been introduced in a number of schools, and two centres for cooking classes for girls and two for woodwork classes for boys have been established in Nassau.

The Board employed 89 teachers (principal and assistant), among whom were six from other West Indian Colonies, and in addition 64 grant-in-aid teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education, and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several

religious bodies, which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government, provided that they meet the requirements laid down in the Secondary Education Act.

Welfare Institutions.

An infirmary, and lunatic and leper asylums, the inmates of which are admitted free of charge, are maintained by the Government, and are under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it, and free rations were issued to 562 paupers in the Colony during the year 1935. The Infant Welfare Department of the Bahamas General Hospital and the pre-natal clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, which receives a Government subsidy, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks, housemaids, and hotel waiters, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service.

There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many friendly societies existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are five cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

During the year, 2,011 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 3,475,919, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number, 940 vessels with a total tonnage of 3,248,951 called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Royal Mail Line. The Pacific Steamship Navigation Company has inaugurated a service with this Colony, and during the year 1935, 25 calls were made at Nassau by ships of this line, which landed 153 and embarked 128 passengers. This service fulfils a long-felt want for direct communication with the United Kingdom at a moderate cost, and by comfortable ships which perform the voyage within 14 days. A weekly passenger and freight service to New York is maintained in the winter months by the Munson Line and a passenger service to Miami is also maintained by this steamship line. The Canadian National Steamship vessels call at Nassau every two weeks en route from Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda to Jamaica, calling at Nassau on the return journey every alternate week; in the winter these vessels also call at Boston. A weekly service for carriage of fruit is maintained by the same line during the tomato season. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 119 vessels of 103,700 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to

work cargoes at South American ports. During the tourist season from November to April numerous large cruise vessels call at Nassau.

A daily service between Nassau and Miami has been maintained by Pan American Airways Incorporated during the period 1st January to 30th April. The equipment used during this period included 14-, 16- and 22-passenger commodores and 36-passenger clippers. From 24th February to 31st March two trips daily, Sundays excepted, were made, with 16- and 22-passenger commodores. Several charters or " Second Section " trips were made with a seven-passenger Sikorsky Amphibian. During the summer this service was performed twice weekly, Mondays and Fridays, by 14-, 16- and 22-passenger commodores.

Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular mail, passenger and freight services by such vessels are maintained to all islands, under Government contract.

There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Board of Trade and others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

Roads.

In New Providence there are good roads, and considerable numbers of motors and carriages are in use, over 1,050 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been treated with asphalt, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and asphalted for a number of miles. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic, and most of the roads are impassable for vehicles. In accordance with the general policy adopted with respect to development of the Out Islands, road development has been undertaken on one island at a time. A good earth road, about 70 miles in length, in the island of Eleuthera has done much to facilitate agricultural development there. A similar road has been roughly constructed throughout the length of Long Island.

Post Office.

The various postal services have been well maintained during the year. The cash-on-delivery system is in use in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom pass through the United States of America, as there is no direct mail service. Domestic parcel post was established some years ago, and all district post offices are money-order offices. The issue of money-orders on United States and Canadian post offices was resumed on the 1st of April 1935.

Telegraphs.

Telegraph communication is effected by wireless service, maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, with 18 stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

The Nassau station maintains continuous watch on the following frequencies (wave lengths) :—500 kc/sec (600 m), with alternate frequencies of 438 kc/sec (685 m), CW slightly modulated, 137·9 kc/sec (2,176 m), at 35 to 45 mins. past each hour; 17,040 kc/sec (17·61 m) at the hour to ten minutes past between 7.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. odd hours; 12,500 kc/sec (24 m) at the hour to ten minutes past, 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. even hours; 9,333 kc/sec (36 m) at the hour to ten minutes past 7.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. each hour. High frequency communications for point to point services are on 3,126 kc/sec (96 m), 3,331 kc/sec (90 m), 4,260 kc/sec (70 m), 5,300 kc/sec (56·6 m), 5,769 kc/sec (52 m); and on 5,495 kc/sec (54 m), 3,082·5 kc/sec (97·32 m) for aircraft and airport communications. High frequency transmitters and receivers have also been supplied to the 12 most important Out Island stations and operate fixed services with Nassau and each other on 5,300 kc/sec (56·6 m) with the exception of Clarence Town, Long Island, which has an alternate frequency of 3,126 kc/sec (96 m). The remaining six Out Island stations communicate on 5,300 kc/sec (56·6 m) low power with each other. In addition Inagua is fitted for marine work on 500 kc/sec (600 m) with an alternate frequency of 438 kc/sec (685 m) CW or ICW.

Long distance telephone on high frequency 4,512·5 kc/sec (66·44 m) is in operation at Nassau connecting through Hialeah, Florida, to all points in the United States, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Hawaii, Great Britain, Europe, Bermuda, and ships at sea so fitted, between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

The Out Island stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes, and for the dissemination of storm warnings.

Telephones.

In Nassau there is a telephone system owned and operated by the Bahamas Government, with 1,019 subscribers. Of the other islands of the Bahamas group, Eleuthera has some 40 miles of telephone line, Cat Island, 30 miles of line; and Long Island, 45 miles of line, connecting the principal settlements to the wireless stations of the islands in question.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

The only bank doing business in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November 1935, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £979,609. The Post Office Savings Bank had at the end of June 1935, 6,808 depositors with deposits to their credit amounting to £61,218. There are as yet no agricultural or co-operative banks.

Currency.

The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declares British sterling to be the money of account, and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £73,400 in local Government currency notes of 4s., 10s., and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £23,000 in British silver coin. United States currency is not legal tender in the Colony, but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

The Note Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners of Currency on 31st March 1935, was valued at £76,692 9s. 9d., and the Depreciation Fund at £8,087 1s. 2d. For the same period the Commissioners showed an excess of £1,686 16s. 3d. in receipts over expenditure, which was paid into General Revenue.

Weights and Measures.

By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172), weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department superintends the maintenance and construction of all public works, including the water supply, as well as sewerage and drainage works, lighthouses, etc., on behalf of the Public Board of Works. This Board, which consists of five members, is appointed annually by the Governor, and all funds for public works are voted to it by the Legislature. The Department also supervises the carrying out of work for other Government Departments.

The total expenditure during the year amounted to £27,935. The major portion of the work done was in the nature of maintenance, and no large works of construction were carried out during the year.

Of Public Works, the principal items consisted of the maintenance of buildings, roads, lighthouses, parks, forts, gardens, cemeteries, drains and seawalls. The first part of a scheme for the reconditioning of the roads in New Providence was commenced. In the Out Islands the reconstruction of buildings and other public works damaged and destroyed by recent hurricanes was carried out at Grand Bahama, Ragged Island, Bimini and various other islands.

The waterworks is expanding rapidly, and during the year the output of water reached a maximum of 82,000,000 gallons, which represented an increase of 22·5 per cent. on the output of any previous year. To cope with this increased demand, the area from which water is obtained has been correspondingly increased and developed. The pumping capacity of the main pumps is 33,000

gallons per hour, but the storage capacity of reservoirs only amounts to about one day's supply during the winter season, and this is being increased by the proposed construction of new tanks. The work of replacing the defective pipe mains was commenced during the year, and forms part of a scheme which will extend over a period of years. In order to encourage and increase the number of connections with the city water supply system, the cost of connecting has been reduced to a very small charge.

The sewerage system has also expanded appreciably during the year, and has required considerable attention. Almost all private sewers entering the harbour have now been discontinued and connected with the sewerage system. The large hotels will also be connected in the near future with the system. At present it is not compulsory for houses (except new buildings) to connect with the system.

The water and sewerage plants are now established as revenue-producing concerns.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Law.—The Law of the Colony is :—

(*a*) The Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement and subject to the exceptions mentioned in the Declaratory Act. (Ch. 7. Statutes. Revised Edition, 1929.)

(*b*) Statutes of the Imperial Parliament specifically applied to the Colony by enactment of the Local Legislature.

(*c*) Statutes of the Colony's Legislature.

Courts.—There is a Supreme Court of the Colony which sits in Nassau, is presided over by a Chief Justice, and has the jurisdiction of a High Court of Justice in England. An appeal, in civil matters, lies from the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Supreme Court sits throughout the year as occasion requires, but ordinary Sessions are held quarterly for the disposal of Criminal Informations and of Civil actions, listed for trial by Jury. In 1935 the number of cases listed in the Supreme Court were, Criminal 43, Civil 102.

The principal Magisterial Court of the Colony is that of the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, who is stationed in Nassau, and appeals from his Court lie to the Supreme Court. Additionally, magisterial powers are exercised by the Commissioners in charge of District in the Out Islands, and by Justices of the Peace, and appeals from such Courts lie to the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, and to the Registrar General, who annually go on circuit among the Out Islands to hear such appeals and dispose of cases triable only, in original jurisdiction, by a Circuit Justice. The Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, Commissioners, and, where so

empowered, Justices of the Peace, are also responsible for the conduct in Court of preliminary inquiries into indictable offences triable by the Supreme Court.

Payment of fines by instalments is permitted in suitable cases, but the necessity seldom arises. The Penal Code provides for placing offenders on probation, but there are no regular probation officers, and it has been found that the practice of binding over of adult offenders on their own recognizances is sufficiently effective.

The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1935 :—

Imprisoned	183
Whipped	130
Fined	967
Bound over or otherwise disposed of...	714
Discharged	141
Committed for trial in Superior Court	50
	2,185

Police.

The establishment of the Colony's armed Police Force is four officers and 125 other ranks, but owing to the need for economy the active strength of the Force has been reduced to four officers (one of whom is permanently seconded as Acting Gaoler, Nassau Prison), and 110 other ranks. The actual effective strength is now two officers and 103 other ranks. The Force is stationed chiefly at Nassau. Three constables are stationed on the Out Islands, together with a number of local and district constables, who are responsible for the policing of their various districts.

The Force is also the Fire Brigade for the Island of New Providence. It is equipped with five motor fire engines, the personnel for which are constables trained as firemen.

As there is no garrison in the Colony, either Imperial or Local Defence Force, all guards, sentries and ceremonial parades have to be furnished by the Police Force. A Police Band is also maintained.

Prisons.

There are official " lock-ups " in all Out Island districts, but all prisoners sentenced to terms exceeding three months are sent to the central prison in Nassau, which has single cell accommodation for 102 male and 16 female prisoners.

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being pulmonary, venereal, and skin diseases, and constipation.

There is no separate provision for juveniles in the central prison, but this class of male offender is committed to the industrial school, a reformatory managed by a Visiting Committee, where agriculture and other crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary schooling.

The daily average of prisoners in the Nassau Prison during 1935 was 120.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

In all, 16 Acts were passed by the Legislature during the year 1935, of which the following are the more important :—

1. *The Protection of Revenue (Customs) Act*, 1935, was passed in an endeavour to prevent the dumping of goods and the forestalling of duties of Customs on those goods. It provides, in short, that when a Resolution is adopted by the House of Assembly making any variations or amendments or additions to duties of Customs, that Resolution is to have statutory effect for four months. In order that the terms of any Resolution may have a permanent effect they must be embodied in a Bill which must be passed by the Legislature in the usual way.

2. *The Financial Year Period Act*, 1935, the object of which is to change the period of the financial year from the 12 months ending on 31st March in any year to the 12 months ending on the 31st December, in any year.

3. *The Capital Punishment Amendment Act*, 1935, which provides that where a woman convicted of an offence punishable with death is found to be pregnant the sentence is to be one of penal servitude for life instead of death.

4. *The Tariff Amendment Act*, 1935, passed to prevent the smuggling of liquor in small boats. The Act now provides specifically for the prohibition of importation of some goods and the restricted importation of others. The goods, the importation of which is restricted, are mainly liquors and must be imported in ships of not less than thirty tons burden at least, in containers of specified sizes, and only into those ports which are specially appointed by the Governor-in-Council.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follow :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1930–31	455,370	426,900
1931–32	386,374	422,706
1932–33	352,160	326,238
1933–34	338,061	310,381
1934–35	277,544	276,961
	1,809,509	1,763,186

The actual excess of revenue over expenditure for this period was £46,323.

The Public Debt on the 31st March amounted to £180,000, which sum was raised locally by the sale of debentures. Provision is made for the redemption of these debentures by annual contribution from the revenue to a sinking fund, which amounted on 31st March 1935, to £42,225.

Investments in England in Trustee Securities, bearing interest at approximately 4½ per cent., and amounting at the end of the financial year to £220,000, represent the liquid assets of the Colony. Other principal assets are represented by loans to two hotels to the sum of £647,000 secured by mortgages on the hotels.

Apart from Real Property Tax, which yielded £4,374 during the year, including collections of certain arrears in respect of previous years, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from the following sources :—

	Estimate, 1935–36. £
Customs	132,575
Port, wharf and harbour dues	21,000
Licences and internal revenue	16,250
Fees of Court, etc.	17,510
Posts and telegraphs	26,810
Interest	30,550
Electric power receipts	38,250

An excise duty of 6d. a hundred is imposed on cigarettes, but with this exception no excise duties are levied. Stamp duties are imposed on instruments used in civil proceedings in the Supreme Court or in commercial or other transactions, and are based on the value of the transaction.

The Tariff Amendment Act, assented to on the 19th December 1932, provides a customs revenue of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on most imports, though there are some items specifically taxed, while alcoholic beverages and tobacco pay a much higher rate.

A sliding scale on agricultural products devised to protect articles capable of production in the Colony is included. There is an export tax on pineapple and sisal plants, wrecked goods, and articles imported for a temporary purpose and exempted from duty under certain conditions. Chief among the exemptions from duty are printed books, flying machines, and essentials to agriculture and to the manufacture of native products. A list of prohibited imports injurious to health and morals is included.

The Imperial Preference Act was repealed during the year 1932, and a new tariff enacted to accord to British goods such preferences as were provided for under the terms of the Ottawa Agreement. By this Act a preference of 50 per cent. is accorded to British importations ; specific exceptions to this general preference are, however, included.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Official.

His Excellency, the Hon. Sir Bede E. H. Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., Governor of the Bahamas, proceeded on leave during May, and The Hon. J. H. Jarrett, K.C., Attorney-General, administered the Government until the Governor's return in October.

The Hon. J. H. Jarrett, K.C., Attorney-General, was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas on 14th August 1935.

Visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent.

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent arrived in Nassau on a Pan-American Airways plane on the 16th of March 1935, having flown direct from Jamaica, in continuation of their honeymoon trip through the West Indies.

Their Royal Highnesses landed at the aerodrome during the afternoon of the 16th of March, and after the presentation of His Honour the Chief Justice, and Members of Executive Council and their wives, The Duke and Duchess inspected a large number of school children and boy scouts who had gathered on the Eastern Parade, when Her Royal Highness was presented with bouquets of flowers by the children and the Nassau Garden Club.

The Royal Party were guests at Government House during their visit.

During their stay in the Bahamas Their Royal Highnesses went on a fishing expedition, and at Cat Cay, a small island approximately 120 miles north-west of Nassau, they met the President of the United States of America, who also was on a fishing expedition in Bahamian waters, and lunched informally with him on board his yacht *Nourmahal*.

Their Royal Highnesses left Nassau on the evening of the 31st of March, on the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's *Orduna*.

Appointment of Commission.—In May 1935, the Governor appointed a Commission to consider the extent to which larceny with and without violence to persons had increased in recent years, to indicate any reasons for such increase, and to make recommendations for the better protection of the public from these and other offences against persons and property.

The Commission held sessions from May to October, when the report was submitted. Evidence was taken from officers of the Police Force and from the general public.

The Commission found that the reason for the increase in larceny was due to a certain extent to defects in police administration, unemployment due to the general conditions prevailing in the Colony, the influx of people of the Out Islands into New Providence in search of work, the number of deportees from the United States with criminal records, and the expansion and growth of the City of Nassau and its changed conditions.

The Commission made various recommendations for improving the situation, among which were increased supervision of the Police

Force by the European officers, mobile police, harbour police, police surveillance of released convicts, introduction of the finger print system, tightening up of immigration laws, and strict observance of existing laws, and some form of assistance to discharged criminals in finding honest employment.

Crown Lands.—The amount collected during the year from rentals of Crown Lands amounted to £472 19s. 0d.

Tourists and Publicity.—The tourist traffic to Nassau has increased greatly in recent years, and during the Season of 1935—January to April—25,539 persons visited Nassau from the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom, with a total of 39,626 for the year.

Nassau as a tourist resort is growing in popularity, and many prominent persons from the countries above mentioned have purchased property in Nassau or on adjacent islands and have there built winter homes.

A publicity campaign was carried out by the Development Board with gratifying results. Attractive folders were issued and widely circulated, numerous persons were communicated with personally, and striking advertisements were carried in the prominent publications of England, Canada and the United States of America.

Weather Conditions.—The weather conditions were, upon the whole, very favourable during the year. Unfortunately two hurricanes of some severity passed over Bahamian waters during 1935, both of which missed New Providence, but struck the north-western islands, Abaco and Grand Bahama, doing considerable damage to crops and shipping.

Visit of His Majesty's ships.—The following ships of His Majesty's West Indies Squadron visited the Colony during 1935.

H.M.S. *York* flying the flag of Vice-Admiral The Hon. Sir Matthew Best, Commander-in-Chief of the America and West Indies Station.
H.M.S. *Scarborough.*
H.M.S. *Dragon.*

Visit of United States ships.—The following ships of the United States Navy visited Nassau during 1935 :—

U.S.S. *Claxton.*
U.S. Coastguard Cutter *Yamacraw.*
U.S. Coastguard Cutter *Pandora.*
U.S. Coastguard Cutter *Vigilant.*

Yachting.—The harbour of Nassau lends itself admirably to yachting and this sport is indulged in to a considerable extent by local and visiting yachtsmen.

In March 1935, the annual regatta of the Royal Nassau Sailing Club was held, when the cup presented by His late Majesty King George V for Pirate Class Yachts was won by Mr. Remington in *Captain Kidd.*

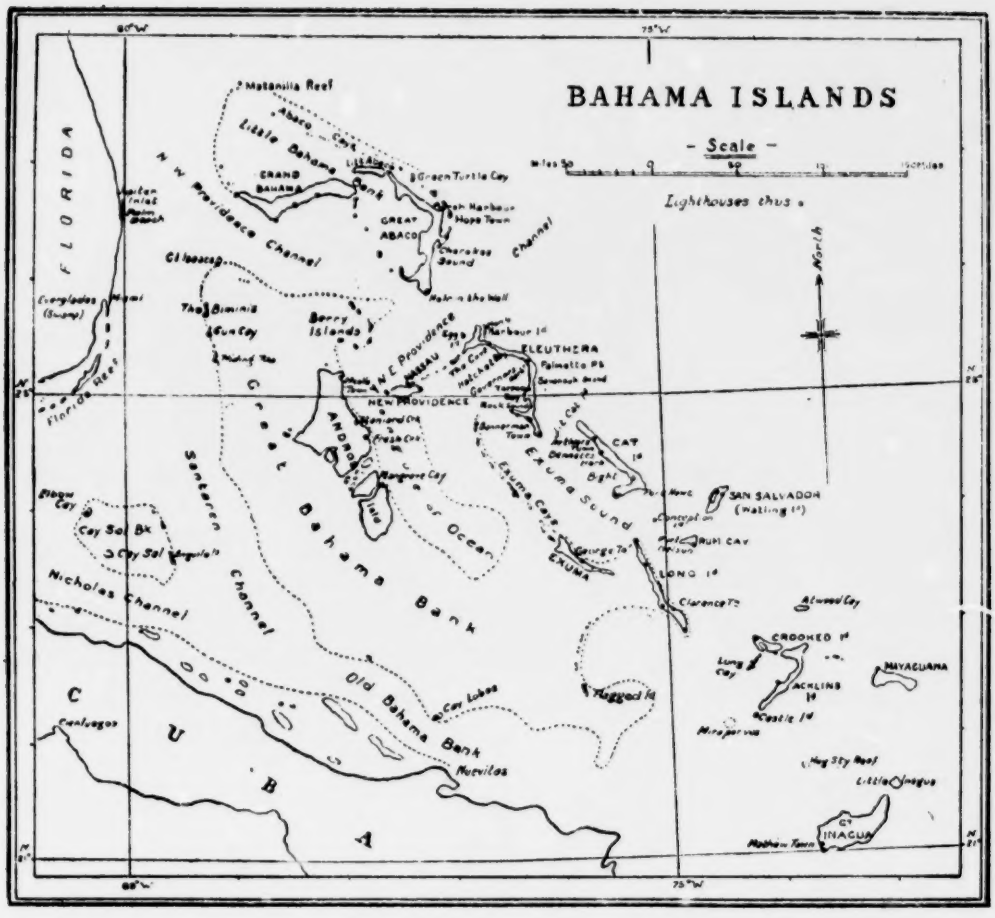
In March 1935, the International Ocean Yacht Race took place, starting at Miami, Fla., and finishing at Nassau. This is an annual event competed for by local yachts and American yachts for a trophy, and is keenly contested. Although Nassau was not fortunate enough to win the trophy, the race having been won by the *Aweigh* of Baltimore, Md., the event provides an interesting sport and fosters good relations between this Colony and the United States of America, as well as providing valuable publicity for the Bahamas.

The United States Coastguard Cutters *Vigilant* and *Pandora* accompanied the yachts and offered every facility for promoting the event.

APPENDIX.

Bahamas Publications, etc.

Title.	*Price.*	*Agents for Sale.*
Laws:		The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London. The Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas.
Revised Edition, volumes 1 and 2, Cloth bound.	2 guineas per volume.	
Bound half calf	3 guineas per volume.	
Annual volumes for years subsequent to 1928.	½d. per printed page.	
Single copies of Acts	" "	
Rules, Regulations and Orders in Council.	" "	
Blue Books...	10s.	
Official Gazette	½d. per printed page. Annual subscription, 12s. 6d.	
Departmental Reports	½d. per printed page.	
Census, 1931	2s.	
Atlas with maps of Bahama Islands ...	10s.	
Bahamas Hand Book, 1926 (by Mary Moseley, M.B.E.).	10s.	
Public Health and Medical Conditions in New Providence (by Sir Wilfred Beveridge, K.B.E., C.B., M.B., C.M. (Edin.) D.P.H., (Camb.) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).	10s.	
Law Report, Volume 1, 1900–1906 (Edited by Kenneth Solomon, K.C., Member of Bahamas Bar).	6s.	
Sand-fly Report, 1932 (by Dr. J. G. Myers, Sc. D., F.Z.S., F.E.S.).	9d.	Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas.
Memorandum on Agriculture in Bahamas (by Hon. Charles Dundas, C.M.G., O.B.E.).	2s.	
Memorandum on Historic Forts of Nassau (by Sir Bede E. H. Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O.).	1s.	
Law Finder—A Guide to Legislation in force in the Bahama Islands on the 1st November. 1934 (by J. H. Jarrett, K.C.).	2s. 6d.	



(38230—48) Wt. 2215—3693 750 10/36 P. St. G.377/7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s.* (4*s.* 4*d.*).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3719.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933-34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

WEST INDIES.

Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 3*d.*).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON: Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2;
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street; MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street;
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent; BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street;
or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.

Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices obtainable from the Sale Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Vestminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

S.O. Code No. 58-1768

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1819

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

BAHAMAS, 1936

(For Reports for 1934 and 1935 see Nos. 1738 (Price 1s. 0d.) and 1768 (Price 1s. 3d.).)

Crown Copyright Reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;
26 York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent. Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any bookseller

1937

Price 1s. 3d. net

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937
Summary of Proceedings [Cmd. 5482] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.)

REGULATIONS FOR HIS MAJESTY'S COLONIAL SERVICE
Part I.—Public Officers [Colonial No. 88–1] 9d. (10d.)
Part II.—Public Business [Colonial No. 88–2] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.)

THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE LIST
(Including the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the Colonial Administrative Service, and a Schedule of Offices as at 1st June, 1937)
Third Edition [Colonial No. 137] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

THE COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICE LIST
(Including the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the Colonial Medical Service, and a Schedule of Offices revised to August, 1937)
Second Edition [Colonial No. 140] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE COLONIAL LEGAL SERVICE LIST
(Including the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the Colonial Legal Service, and a Schedule of Offices as at 1st August, 1937)
Third Edition [Colonial No. 138] 9d. (10d.)

THE COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE LIST
(Including the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the Colonial Agricultural Service, and a Schedule of Offices revised to 30th November, 1936)
First Edition [Colonial No. 143] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE LIST
(Including the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the Colonial Veterinary Service, and a Schedule of Offices)
First Edition. [Colonial No. 132] 6d. (7d.)

THE COLONIAL FOREST SERVICE LIST
(Including the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State for the onies for the Colonial Forest Service, and a Schedule of Offices)
First Edition [Colonial No. 122] 6d. (7d.)

CONDITIONS AND COST OF LIVING IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE
A Handbook of Information supplied by Colonial Governments
Third Edition, 1937. [Colonial No. 136] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS
Report of Committee [Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE
Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730] 9d. (10d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2: Adastral House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street
MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent
BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street
or through any bookseller

Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS FOR 1936

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate and History	2
II.	Government	4
III.	Population...	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	8
VI.	Production...	9
VII.	Commerce	14
VIII.	Wages and Cost of Living	16
IX.	Education and Welfare Institutions	16
X.	Communications and Transport	18
XI.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures	20
XII.	Public Works	21
XIII.	Justice, Police, and Prisons	23
XIV.	Legislation	25
XV.	Public Finance and Taxation	26
XVI.	Miscellaneous	27
	Appendix—Bahamas Publications	29
	Sketch Map.	

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of the Bahamas, a chain of islands, cays, rocks and reefs lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba, form the northern group of the West Indian Archipelago which stretches in a curve from the southern coast of North America to the northern coast of South America, and consists of the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles. Extending over an area of 760 miles the Bahamas comprise nearly 700 islands and over 2,000 cays and rocks. The aggregate land surface of the group is 4,400 square miles, which is slightly greater than that of Jamaica, the largest of the British West Indian Islands.

New Providence, although not one of the larger islands, is the most important, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and is inhabited by nearly one-quarter of the total population of the Colony. The island is about 21 miles in length from east to west, and seven miles in breadth from north to south. It is mostly flat and covered with brush wood, and has several extensive lagoons.

The islands are mostly long, narrow and low-lying, and except in the cases of Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama, not well wooded.

There are extensive pine forests on Andros, Grand Bahama, and Abaco, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood is to be found on the last-mentioned island.

The ground is very rocky, but there are patches of excellent land containing rich fertile soil, and there are extensive tracts of land in some of the islands which are suitable for pasture.

There are no mountains, and very few hills, but the islands are by no means lacking in beauty. The fine white sand studded with powdered pink coral, and the ever changing and wonderful colouring of the sea, makes a picture which is not easily forgotten.

Climate.

The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September and October. The total rainfall for 1936 in New Providence was 47·73 inches.

The greatest heat is experienced during July, August and September, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90° F. Although the heat during the summer months is trying, and the mosquitoes and sandflies are troublesome, the islands are never unhealthy. The malaria mosquito is unknown in the Colony.

History.

At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647, a Company of " Eleutherian Adventurers " was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670, yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673, one Governor was seized and deported to

Jamaica; in 1690, another was deposed and imprisoned; and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680, the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba. In 1703, a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed. In 1776, however, a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony, which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

" The Eleutherian Adventurers," who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them a conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The Charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution,

much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, was created as a separate Council by Royal Letters Patent in 1841.

The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence, or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred in June, 1928, and in May, 1935.

No forms of local Government exist.

III.—POPULATION.

The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group:—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last Census (1931).*
Abaco and Cays	776	4,233
Acklins	133	1,765
Andros	1,600	7,071
Berry Islands	10	222
Bimini	8	736
Cat Island	160	3,959
Cay Sal and Cay Lobos	1½	20
Crooked Island	76	1,329
Eleuthera	158	6,168
Exuma and Cays	80	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Harbour Island	1½	793
Inagua	560	667
Long Island	130	4,515
Long Cay	8	144
Mayaguana	90	518
New Providence	60	19,756
Ragged Island and Cays	4	424
Rum Cay	29	252
San Salvador or Watlings	60	675
Spanish Wells	½	566
	4,375½	59,828

The estimated population for the whole Colony on 31st December, 1936, was 66,219, made up of 30,890 males and 35,329 females.

Births.—There were 1,973 births in the Colony during the year, or 32·9 per 1,000 based on the census figures, 1931.

Deaths.—There were 1,127 deaths in the Colony during the year, or 18·8 per 1,000 based on the census figures, 1931.

Marriages.—There were 574 marriages in the Colony during the year. The marriages were performed by Marriage Officers of the following denominations:—

Anglican	76
Roman Catholic	35
Methodist	49
Baptist	303
Others	111

Infantile Mortality.—There were 148 deaths of children under one year, or 77·8 per 1,000 living births.

Emigration and Immigration.—During the year 10,917 persons left the Colony and 11,308 were admitted, of whom a large proportion were winter visitors.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Act (Chapter 258) and strict supervision is exercised by the authorities to prevent undesirable immigrants and passengers arriving in the Colony.

IV.—HEALTH.

The climate of the Colony is most conducive to good health, and Nassau, the capital, can boast of an excellent pipe-borne water supply, and up-to-date sewerage system, as well as an ice plant.

The city water and the ice manufactured from it are analysed weekly, and have shown a high bacteriological standard.

Medical.

The Medical and Public Health Service is administered by a Health Board, of which the Chief Medical Officer is Chairman.

The medical problems in the Bahamas are chiefly those arising out of poverty—syphilis, tuberculosis and pellagra, in that order of importance. Otherwise the Colony is a remarkably healthy one. Malaria has disappeared, typhoid is fast disappearing, hook-worm is unknown, diphtheria sporadic, and the infectious diseases are unimportant.

The Government expended on medical care during 1936 the sum of £16,863, and on sanitation £4,111 or 8·5 per cent. of the Colony's revenue.

Owing to the financial year being altered to correspond with the calendar year these figures represent the Medical and Sanitation expenditure and Colony's revenue for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1936.

The medical needs of the Colony in New Providence are met by:—

(*a*) The Bahamas General Hospital, which has a full time resident staff of three doctors, a European Matron, three European sisters, 46 native nurses, in all a staff of 116 (all ranks).

(*b*) The service of the hospital is furnished largely free of charge. There is an outpatient department, in which 26,569 persons were treated in 1936, a general hospital which had 3,134 admissions, a lunatic asylum, infirmary, dental clinic, venereal and gynaecological clinic.

(*c*) There are well equipped X-ray and bacteriological laboratories.

The total cost per patient at the Bahamas General Hospital is 3s. 10d. per day (the lowest on record).

The following is a table of the principal groups of diseases treated at the Bahamas General Hospital during the year, together with the mortality arising from these diseases:—

Disease.	*Number of cases.*	*Number of deaths.*
Typhoid fever	20	3
Tuberculosis	114	47
Venereal diseases	718	21
Pellagra	39	7
Diseases of the heart	50	13
Diarrhoea and enteritis under two years	31	5
Puerperal eclampsia	2	1
Diseases of infancy	26	1

The above diseases occurred chiefly among the wage-earning population.

The Out Islands are served medically by three Government District Medical Officers, who are stationed at the larger and more important islands, but who tour the other settlements at intervals. Licensed midwives and unqualified medical practitioners assist in dispensing medical aid.

Leprosy.—There is a leper colony which has fifteen inmates, situated in the Pine Barrens, which is a considerable distance from the inhabited parts of New Providence.

Child Welfare.—

(*a*) Midwives are given six months' training at the Bahamas General Hospital, and then sent back to the various Out Islands.

(*b*) Infant welfare clinics are held tri-weekly in New Providence. These are attended by a private practitioner. A full time specially qualified welfare nurse is employed to supervise these clinics and do house-to-house visiting.

The last three months of each undergraduate nurse's course (four years) at the Hospital are devoted to Child Welfare work under the guidance of the Welfare Nurse-in-charge.

(*c*) There is an ante-natal clinic conducted by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity.

(*d*) There is a small " Good Will Centre " for girls supported by public subscription.

(*e*) The Government conducts a Boys' Industrial School of some 50 boys.

Sanitation.

(*a*) The policies of the Health Board are carried out by a Chief Sanitary Inspector who holds a qualification from the Royal Sanitary Institute. There are four sanitary inspectors for New Providence, and in the Out Islands there are local Boards of Health with the Island Commissioner usually acting as chairman.

(*b*) Chlorinated city water is examined bacteriologically once a week, and increasing numbers of houses are being connected to the system. The old open wells for supplying public drinking water have been done away with as far as possible, and public standpipes installed. Water-borne sewage is disposed of by the " activated sludge " process, and crude sewage is no longer discharged into the harbour to any extent.

(*c*) Both raw and pasteurized milk is sold, but a high standard of quality is insisted upon.

(*d*) Meat is inspected by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the sale of food in the Public Market is supervised by a full-time officer.

(*e*) The sale of food is permitted only in licensed premises, and food handlers come up bi-annually for medical examination.

The Health Department has continued to take care of street cleaning and garbage collection.

Co-operating with the Board of Pilotage, sand dredged from the harbour of Nassau has been made available to fill in low-lying areas, and a marked improvement in the drainage of the Pond District in Nassau has been effected thereby.

The general standard of hygiene in New Providence is quite good.

There are no estates, mines or factories in the Colony.

V.—HOUSING.

Wage-earners are found almost only in Nassau. Their housing consists principally of wooden two- or three-roomed structures with separate outside kitchen and pit-latrine, and devoid of other sanitary installations. Water in Nassau is now supplied almost exclusively from public drinking fountains (maintained from public funds), connected with the City's pure water supply.

Some houses are owned by the occupants; others are rented, the rate being 4s. to 8s. a week. Such houses are invariably built on separate plots, so that there is no crowding of houses and there are no slum areas.

The most urgent need is the replacement of numerous dwellings which are of such poor construction that they are incapable of withstanding hurricane winds of any great velocity. In an effort to improve on this condition, over 100 houses of special hurricane-proof design were built at public expense in replacement of houses destroyed in the hurricane of September, 1929. The cost of these houses, varying from £45 to £75, was made recoverable by weekly payments to be spread over four years, and it was hoped that the receipts would be available for further construction of houses for the wage-earning class, but the collection of instalments has proved difficult, and the scheme as originally contemplated cannot be developed until a substantial proportion of the capital outlay has been recovered.

No building societies exist in the Colony.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The natural resources of the Colony are marine, agricultural, and forest products. Except for forest exploitation on Abaco Island, production is conducted individually, there being neither factories, plantations, nor mines anywhere in the Colony.

Of the products of the Colony, sponge, crawfish, tomatoes, shell, salt and timber are exported, other commodities are at the present time produced only for local consumption.

No actual distinction exists between cultivation or other forms of production by persons of European and non-European descent. The former are principally engaged in commerce and the latter mainly in production; but persons of both races may be found engaged in one or the other of these pursuits, and such limited agricultural employment as exists is not restricted entirely to one race.

The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation, and the quantity of live stock in the Colony:—

Crops.	*Acres.*	*Live stock.*	*Number.*
Citrus	400	Horses	2,300
Coconuts	500	Horned cattle	2,650
Onions	100	Sheep	19,925
Pineapples	35	Goats	11,282
Sisal	5,148	Swine	6,080
Tomatoes	940	Poultry	34,900
Other products	16,950		
Total	24,073	Total	77,137

Sponge.—The sponge industry was once one of the major industries of the Colony, but during past years due to depletion of sponge beds by hurricanes, and lack of conservation of the young sponges by the sponge fishers, the industry has been adversely affected to a serious extent. During 1936 a sum of £6,000 was made available by the Colonial Development Fund for the rehabilitation of the sponge industry, and the Bahamas Government is contributing toward this effort to re-establish the industry.

It is estimated that about 160 offshore vessels were fitted out in October, 1936, with the addition of about 20 in the New Year. The number of inshore boats varies considerably. The Commissioner at Abaco estimates about 180 in his district and the Commissioner at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, reports about 52. No other information is available.

The Rules of the Agricultural and Marine Products Board relating to the Sponge Industry are under review, and the position of sponge planters is being clarified.

It is hoped that room for a New Sponge Exchange will be available on land now being reclaimed from the harbour near Armstrong Street in Nassau; meanwhile the trade is taking steps to form an Association in order to be able to record the opinion of the trade as a whole on questions of general interest to the industry, and in order to be in a position to negotiate for a loan for the New Exchange.

The ultimate aim of scientific investigations when applied to an industry is to gain knowledge upon which a rational exploitation of that industry can be based.

This may take the form, in the case of the sponge industry, of temporary closure of certain grounds, seasonal closure of all grounds, the imposition of size limits, the introduction of new methods and the centralizing of marketing facilities.

Certain areas where the evidence of over-fishing and hurricane damage have already been only too clear have been closed to enable the stocks to recover. When the grounds have been nursed back to a better state of productivity, it should be possible to maintain them in that condition by a re-adjustment of the size limits and by occasional closures.

In regard to research, one approach which presents itself is the investigation of the living sponge, its biology and variety, its mode of reproduction and growth rate, its food and environmental controls, its abundance and distribution. This work will entail a survey of the fishing grounds; observational work to ascertain the breeding season, length of life and behaviour of the larva; analysis of the sea water and an estimate of its suspended food stuff upon which the sponge lives and which varies from place to place.

A laboratory has been built and equipped over the carpenter's shop at the Board of Works, and a research vessel to be named the " Basil Blackett " is under construction in Nassau.

A field station has been established at Mastic Cay, Bight of Andros, where an extensive series of experiments on growth rate and environment have been started. Work on the other lines indicated above cannot yet be undertaken beyond the preliminary testing out of methods until the research vessel becomes available.

With regard to the methods of preparation for the market the Department is examining the existing methods and will experiment with a view to their improvement.

It is hoped to institute a system of statistical returns before next season which will enable those interested to follow the landings of sponge from month to month, the prices fetched by the different varieties, the number of vessels, boats and men employed, and the amount and value of sponge from the various fishing grounds. From the study of these statistical returns, evidence will be obtained as to the relative value of the fishery on the various grounds; and from a year to year comparison of landings, useful information regarding questions of over-fishing, effect of the closure of areas, and other points of interest can be derived.

Such a scheme will only become workable with the active co-operation of those engaged in the industry with whom close relations have already been established by the Sponge Fishery Investigations Department.

The Department has been engaged with the evolution of methods of sponge cultivation under commercial conditions. Having established depots at salient points in the Bight of Andros (which has been closed to commercial fishing) work is proceeding over the whole area, testing the suitability of the various creeks and channels for sponge planting. The experience and knowledge gained, whether of methods or of sites will be placed at the disposal of newcomers to the field of sponge planting, and it is hoped to build up a reserve stock of sponge of proved value from which planting enterprises in the area may be supplied at reasonable cost. There are already six enterprises operating in the Bight area, two in North Andros, two or three in Abaco and one in Exuma. One North Bight planter has been able to test the market with his cultivated sponge, with distinctly encouraging results.

The sales of sponge on the Nassau Sponge Exchange for the year 1936 were as follows:—

	Jan.—June.			*Oct.—Dec.*			*Total.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wool and Velvet ...	26,736	10	5	7,480	0	8	34,216	11	1
Grass	6,827	13	6	3,097	4	10	9,924	18	4
Reef	3,607	10	4	1,572	6	2	5,179	16	6
Yellow and Hardhead ...	3,119	19	2	766	14	1	3,886	13	3
Total—1936	£40,291	13	5	£12,916	5	9	£53,207	19	2

Comparison of sales over the last three years is of interest:—

	£	s.	d.
1934	51,089	10	2
1235	37,954	1	7
1936	53,207	19	2

The decline in 1935 was due to a fall in quality and quantity of sponge landings from the " Mud ", coupled with low prices due to depression on foreign markets.

Month to month returns show that the recovery in 1936 has been due to better prices, the opening of the Abaco Bight in November, 1935, after the 18 months' closure which had markedly beneficial effects, and the increased landings from the Current, Eleuthera, Exuma and other grounds, particularly in June and November.

Landings from the Andros grounds have declined little as compared with 1935 in spite of the closure of the Northern Mud. Vessels have been exploiting new grounds to the South of Andros.

Salt.—Coarse salt was formerly won in considerable quantities from salt-ponds in several islands. Efforts are now being made to revive the trade and to produce a cleaner grade of salt which will sell more readily than the quality hitherto produced.

Fisheries.—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export.

Crawfish have always been plentiful in these waters, and have been used for supplying the local market, but during the past few years, owing to the scarcity of crawfish at the Florida Cays, the American market has turned to the Bahamas, and during the past year a large quantity of crawfish was exported in the shell to Florida. In the period from October to December, 322,274 lb. were exported at the value of £1,627. The Royalty collected on this amount totalled £331. The industry is being carefully controlled and safeguarded by the Government, so as to avoid any serious depletion of the crawfish beds.

Sisal.—Sisal production, once the premier industry of the Colony, became practically extinct, but during the year there was a temporary revival of the sisal market in the United States, which enabled merchants to dispose of the bulk of their accumulated stocks. One thousand four hundred and eighty-seven tons were exported at an estimated value of £15,007. Revised Regulations were issued which required sisal buyers to be licensed, and the production, grading and packing of sisal is required to conform to the standards fixed by the Agricultural Board.

Agriculture.—The rocky nature of the land and the paucity of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the islands have in the past been highly productive of sub-tropical cultivations, and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land.

On the Out Islands the people have always, on small farms, grown sufficient produce for their own needs. In Nassau, however, it has been necessary to import large quantities of fruit and vegetables.

During the past few years the Government has tried to encourage a greater interest in agriculture. Agricultural instructors have been placed at various islands and seed distributed free of charge. In an effort to foster agriculture it was decided to open a Government Produce Exchange for the marketing of produce from the Out Islands. Local Farmers' Associations were formed, and it is hoped that the agricultural output will be greatly increased.

Tomatoes.—The principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality, and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market, where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicaps Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now ceased; but exportation to Canada was developed in 1931, and the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax.

It is difficult to assess the number of persons engaged in agriculture. Practically everyone not engaged in commerce cultivates in a small way for his own needs. On the other hand, comparatively few live solely by cultivation of the soil.

Citrus.—Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida, and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. The fly, however, is now well under control and very successful efforts have been made in recent years to restore the cultivation of citrus. There is every prospect of the production in the near future being more than sufficient to meet local requirements.

Stock and poultry.—Stock and poultry raising is conducted on a very limited scale for local consumption, but is hardly sufficient to supply the local demand.

Export of local produce.—The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years:—

		1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Cascarilla bark ...	lb.	24,528	27,388	48,944	49,056	31,360
	£	1,464	946	1,644	1,466	864
Tomatoes, raw ...	m. bushels	165	120	112	106	105
	£	75,311	26,451	20,444	26,064	27,610
Sisal hemp ...	tons	81	22	158	607	1,487
	£	484	162	1,371	3,709	15,007
Abaco pine timber	m. feet	5,466	4,347	1,649	2,861	1,992
	£	26,799	22,724	7,403	14,938	11,455
Woods, other ...	tons	51	130	30	226	123
	£	261	605	120	820	477
Shell, tortoise ...	lb.	5,524	3,622	6,543	6,290	4,813
	£	6,677	3,510	6,782	4,610	3,042
Shell, conch ...	no.	38,603	34,653	84,567	66,000	56,739
		281	196	343	339	242
Sponge	m. lb.	683	864	679	745	697
	£	77,992	84,562	58,250	51,954	54,912
Salt	m. bushels	7	79	88	15	—
	£	126	765	1,087	193	—

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows:—

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	940,063	929,731	728,299	718,215	967,040
Exports	263,886	180,151	202,480	125,428	139,333
Total (excluding specie) ...	1,203,949	1,109,882	930,779	843,643	1,106,373

The values of imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period were as follows:—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain ...	228,336	251,294	182,531	169,866	238,084
Canada	221,444	261,558	135,100	98,949	130,231
United States of America ...	334,501	259,935	267,773	317,612	415,161

The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows:—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	275,926	333,408	146,302	56,918	55,509
Wines	14,226	13,755	12,695	5,862	6,508
Cordials and liqueurs ...	4,670	4,139	3,324	2,192	3,550
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	17,336	13,429	12,442	13,374	16,707
Food-stuffs ...	240,569	227,204	187,828	219,954	276,414
Lumber and shingles ...	12,239	14,671	15,822	16,864	33,190
Boots and shoes	13,586	13,886	12,541	12,563	15,153
Cotton manufactures ...	34,559	26,868	30,469	35,450	39,069
Metals, iron and steel. Manufactures of ...	7,089	5,864	11,142	6,964	13,817
Oils	39,018	32,419	32,022	20,661	20,641
Motor cars, trucks and parts ...	7,345	15,235	19,253	29,659	40,543

The principal exports of local produce were:—

	Quantities.	*Value.*
		£
Tomatoes (m. bush)	105	27,610
Cascarilla bark (cwt.)	280	864
Lumber (m. feet)	1,992	11,455
Tortoise shell (lb.)	4,813	3,042
Sponge (m. lb.)	697	54,912

Of these products, cascarilla bark was exported to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, tomatoes to Canada, and tortoise shell to the United Kingdom. The lumber export was to Jamaica and Bermuda. Sponge was exported to several countries of Europe, and to the United States of America, Canada and Japan, the major portion going to the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Holland.

Trade with the United Kingdom and Canada has increased substantially since the coming into operation of Preferential Tariff Agreements. During the year under review 23 per cent. of the total value of our imports was from the United Kingdom and 17 per cent. from Canada. A large proportion of the freight here represented is trans-shipped through New York, the only direct freight service being by the Royal Mail Steamers once a month and these usually take three weeks to make the voyage out. It is not surprising, therefore, that with New York but three days away by steamer, and Florida within one day that the United States of America still enjoys 43 per cent. of our import trade.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No material change in wages took place during the year, and the following are the wages paid to Government employees during a working week of five days:—

	Per day. (*Shillings.*)
Blacksmiths	17
Carpenters	8 to 10
Labourers	3 to 5½
Masons	6 to 8
Painters	4 to 6
Plumbers	6 to 10
Truck drivers	6 to 7

Government and private employees usually work 8¼ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive 10s. to 20s. per week, and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 2s. to 4s. a day.

The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, and sugar, and he spends about 9d. a day on his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

Average cost of living for officials.—The cost of living in New Providence is high. The tariff in the first-class hotels varies from £2 per day to £4 per day inclusive during the winter season, and in the smaller hotels the tariff during the same period is approximately £2 per day inclusive. During the period May to November inclusive, accommodation may be obtained in the smaller hotels for approximately £1 4s. per day. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding house for £5 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £400 a year.

A furnished bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case a married couple, without children, should be able to live on about £600 a year. Unfurnished bungalows can be obtained for about £100 a year.

In the Out Islands there are no hotels or boarding houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Primary Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years of age, and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The

total amount expended by the Board of Education during 1936 was £17,553, giving an average cost per pupil on the total roll for the year of £1 9s. 11d.

The Board maintained 55 schools, and grants-in-aid were paid to 62 schools. The total roll was 11,735. In addition to these schools which are directly under the control of the Board of Education, there are 39 denominational schools with a total roll of over 2,000 pupils and a number of private schools with nearly 400 pupils. Owing to the scattered population, this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate. A number of children are out of the reach of any school, and in some localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government, prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training. This is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. Sewing lessons for girl pupils have been introduced in a number of schools, and two centres for cooking classes for girls and two for woodwork classes for boys have been established in Nassau. Six teachers were sent to the Summer School at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, U.S.A., to study agriculture, domestic science and woodwork.

The Board employed 89 teachers (principal and assistant), among whom were six from other West Indian Colonies, and in addition 62 grant-in-aid teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education, and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies, which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government, provided that they meet the requirements laid down in the Secondary Education Act.

Welfare Institutions.

An infirmary, and lunatic and leper asylums, the inmates of which are admitted free of charge, are maintained by the Government, and are under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it, and free rations were issued to 564 paupers in the Colony during the year 1936. The Infant Welfare Department of the Bahamas General Hospital and the pre-natal clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, which receives a Government subsidy, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks, housemaids, and hotel waiters, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service.

There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many friendly societies

existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are five cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

During the year, 1936, 2,372 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 3,323,623, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number 1,053 vessels with a total tonnage of 2,997,255 called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Royal Mail Line. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company has inaugurated a service with this Colony, and during the year 23 calls were made at Nassau by ships of this line, which landed 229 and embarked 190 passengers. This service fulfils a long-felt want for direct communication with the United Kingdom at a moderate cost, and by comfortable ships which perform the voyage within 14 days. During January to April a weekly passenger service between New York and Nassau is provided by the Cunard White Star Line, and the Clarke Steamship Line maintains a tri-weekly service with Miami, Florida. The Munson Steamship Company gives a fortnightly passenger and freight service from New York, embracing Nassau, Miami and Havana returning by the same route. The Canadian National Steamship vessels call at Nassau every two weeks en route from Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda to Jamaica, calling at Nassau on the return journey every alternate week; in the winter these vessels also call at Boston. A weekly service for carriage of fruit is maintained by the same line during the tomato season. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 145 vessels of 149,784 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports. During the tourist season from November to April numerous large cruise vessels call at Nassau.

Roads.

All the main roads are surfaced with bitumen and due to the general improvement in recent years motor vehicles have increased to 1,313. The Out Island roads are the usual rock surfaced roads adequate for the rare wheeled traffic. In Eleuthera the road is 70 miles long, and Long Island has a similar road. These roads have materially assisted the agricultural development of these islands.

Post Office.

During the year 1936 the work of the Post Office was larger than 1935, there being an increase in the receipts over 1935 of £3,792.

There is a direct mail service to Bermuda, Canada and Jamaica every fortnight by the ships of the Canadian National Steamship Company.

During the period between the 1st January and the 30th April there is a daily Air Mail service between Miami, Fla., and Nassau, the balance of the year the service being on Mondays and Fridays. The service is performed by the planes of the Pan American Airways Incorporated.

Besides the above service there is a weekly mail service during the winter season from New York by the Cunard White Star Liner *Carinthia* and throughout the year a fortnightly service from New York by the Munson Steamship Line steamer *Munargo*. In addition there is frequent communication with Miami, Fla. by various motor vessels throughout the year.

Telegraphs.

Telegraph communication is effected by wireless service, maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, with 20 stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

The Nassau W/T station maintains continuous watch on:— 500 kc/sec (600 m.), with an alternate working frequency of 438 kc/sec (685 m.), c.w. slightly modulated. From 35 minutes to 45 minutes past each hour a watch is kept on 143 kc/sec (2,100 m.).

From the hour to 10 minutes past each hour 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. a watch is kept on 12,500 kc/sec (24 m.) and at the hour to 10 minutes past, 7.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m., on 8,333 kc/sec (36 m.).

High frequency communications on point-to-point service are maintained continuously with Hialeah, Fla., on 3,334 kc/sec (89·98 m.) 4,260 kc/sec (70 m.) and 5,769 kc/sec (52 m.), and during the winter months January to April, with the same station for stock brokerage service on 5,085 kc/sec (59 m.) and 3,216 kc/sec (93·20 m.).

With Kingston, Jamaica, daily from 7.45 a.m. to 6.45 p.m. each hour at 45 minutes past on 8,135 kc/sec (36·88 m.), with two emergency schedules at 10.15 p.m. and 3.30 a.m. on 500 kc/sec (600 m.) and 143 kc/sec (2,100 m.) respectively.

High frequency transmitters and receivers have also been supplied to all the Out Island W/T stations and operate a fixed service with Nassau and each other on 5,300 kc/sec

(56·6 m.), in addition the stations at Clarence Town, Long Island, Bimini, Cat Cay and San Salvador are fitted with the alternate frequency of 3,125 kc/sec (96 m.). The Out Island station at Inagua is also equipped for marine work on 500 kc/sec (600 m.) with the alternate frequency of 438 kc/sec (685 m.) CW or ICW, however no fixed hours of watch are maintained on this frequency.

Overseas Telephone communication is maintained on a frequency of 4,512 kc/sec (66·44 m.) from Nassau connecting through the Hialeah, Fla., telephone terminal to all points in the United States, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Hawaii, the Phillipine Islands, Great Britain, Europe and other countries as well as to vessels at sea so equipped. This circuit is maintained between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily with extended hours during the months of the winter season.

All times quoted in this report are Eastern Standard, five hours slow on Greenwich Mean Time.

The Out Island stations have proved of great benefit to the industries and inhabitants of these islands, and are very useful for administrative and police purposes, and the dissemination of storm warnings.

Telephones.

In Nassau there is a manually operated system owned and operated by the Bahamas Government with 1,067 subscribers. Of the other islands of the Bahamas group, Eleuthera has some 40 miles of telephone line, Cat Island, 30 miles of line and Long Island 52 miles of line, connecting the principal settlements to the Wireless Stations of the islands in question.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

The only bank doing business in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November, 1936, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £1,542,941.

Savings Bank.—The Savings Bank is being used to a much larger extent by the labouring classes than before, and there is a steady progress in the amount in deposits. During the year ended 30th June, 1936, there was an increase of 547 in the number of depositors and the balance due to the depositors showed an increase of £1,959 over 1935.

Currency.

The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declares British sterling to be the money of account, and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £73,400 in local Government currency

notes of 4s., 10s. and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £24,000 in British silver coin. United States currency is not legal tender in the Colony but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

The Note Security Fund held by the Commissioners of Currency on 31st December, 1936, was valued at £88,986 7s. 9d. and the Depreciation Fund at £10,378 13s. 0d. For the same period the Commissioners showed an excess of £2,655 2s. 10d. in receipts over expenditure, which was paid into General Revenue.

The Currency Note Act, 1936, which came into operation on the 1st November, 1936, declares currency notes issued under the Act to be legal tender in the Colony, and that they shall be deemed to be current coin of the Colony.

Under the Proclamation of His Majesty in Council of the 27th October, 1936, silver coins of the United Kingdom ceased to be legal tender in the Colony for payment of any amount exceeding 40s., with effect from the 1st November, 1936.

Weights and Measures.

By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department superintends the construction and maintenance of all public works, which includes:—

Water Works.—Recovery, Distribution and Administration.

Sewerage.—Collection, Disposal and Administration.

Lighthouses.—For local Out Islands navigation, the Department built and maintains 27 Gas Automatic lighthouses, and also 38 oil lights of purely local interest.

Inspection and control of building.—Plans of all private buildings and sanitary arrangements are controlled by the Department.

Maintenance.—Public parks, gardens, public areas, forts, including nursery which also sells plants to private individuals: public buildings, wharfs, sheds, markets, drains, abutments, etc.: all Out Island public works, including wharfs, buildings, roads and any improvements required from time to time: construction and upkeep of roads, paths, etc., in New Providence, and also some of the Out Island roads.

The Department carries out the above duties on behalf of the Board of Public Works, which consists of five members appointed by the Governor, and all funds are voted annually by the Legislature. The Department also supervises and carries out work for other Departments when necessary.

The expenditure is £32,350 for fiscal period of nine months in 1936, being mainly for maintenance, the Out Islands reconstruction and other Public Works proceeded with.

The Water Works is expanding rapidly, the water output being 87 millions of gallons, an increase of 20 per cent. over the previous year. To meet the extensive development of building, the water mains were extended to a point 5¼ miles East and 6 miles West of the city, involving the laying of over 9 miles of cast iron pipes. To meet this extra demand for water, 3,000 feet of shallow trenches were dug to collect water for distribution, and a new reservoir has been constructed to hold 500,000 gallons of water to meet abnormal demands for water and to prevent excessive rates of pumping from the wells, also serving as settling tank after lime soda treatment. A number of windmills are being used to recover water in inaccessible places and these have proved to be very satisfactory over a period of three years, and produce nearly 25 per cent. of the water supplied. A new area with sufficient equipment to meet the yearly increase as required is being investigated to relieve the present producing area.

Due to reductions in the cost of the new water connections and the rapid rate of building, the number of new connections have been 137, making in all 1,180 or three times the normal increase. The old galvanised and wrought iron pipes used since 1928 and already badly corroded, are now being replaced by cast iron and some 1,200 yards are to be replaced this year.

The sewers and sub-pumping stations have been altered and improved to meet the increase in sewage. A new pump was added to Station No. 3 to ensure the removal of sewage greatly increased by having the Colonial Hotel connected and the majority of some 39 new connections and extensions to old connections.

The disposal plant continues satisfactorily and steps were taken to remove the odours arising from the raw sewage in the sedimentation tanks. This consists of a covering over the tanks and the gases are removed by an exhausting fan and passed through a furnace. The method is satisfactory and inexpensive and may be extended to other places if required.

The water and sewerage systems are now factors in the production of revenue.

Inspection of Buildings.—The Board exercises rigid control of all construction in order that no abnormal or faulty construction takes place to spoil the general appearance of the

Island. The results are very gratifying. The control of sanitation and plumbers, etc., is enforced to ensure proper work according to modern standards.

Public Buildings.—The existing administration and Public Buildings are inadequate for present needs, and will require extensions in the near future.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Law.—The Law of the Colony is:—

(*a*) The Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement and subject to the exceptions mentioned in the Declaratory Act (Chapter 7. Statutes. Revised Edition, 1929).

(*b*) Statutes of the Imperial Parliament specifically applied to the Colony by enactment of the Local Legislature.

(*c*) Statutes of the Colony's Legislature.

Courts.—There is a Supreme Court of the Colony which sits in Nassau, is presided over by a Chief Justice, and has the jurisdiction of a High Court of Justice in England. An appeal, in civil matters, lies from the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Supreme Courts sits throughout the year as occasion requires, but ordinary Sessions are held quarterly for the disposal of Criminal Informations and of Civil actions, listed for trial by Jury. In 1936 the number of cases listed in the Supreme Court were, Criminal 42, Civil 86.

The principal Magisterial Court of the Colony is that of the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, who is stationed in Nassau, and appeals from his Court lie to the Supreme Court. Additionally, magisterial powers are exercised by the Commissioners in charge of Districts in the Out Islands, and by Justices of the Peace, and appeals from such Courts lie to the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, and to the Registrar General, who annually go on circuit among the Out Islands, to hear such appeals and dispose of cases triable only, in original jurisdiction, by a Circuit Justice. The Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, Commissioners, and, where so empowered, Justices of the Peace, are also responsible for the conduct in Court of preliminary inquiries into indictable offences triable by the Supreme Court.

Payment of fines by instalments is permitted in suitable cases, but the necessity seldom arises. The Penal Code provides for placing offenders on probation, but there are no regular probation officers, and it has been found that the practice of binding over of adult offenders on their own recognizances is sufficiently effective.

The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1936:—

Imprisoned	232
Whipped (Juveniles)	127
Fined	1,100
Bound over or otherwise disposed of	851
Discharged	253
Committed for trial in Supreme Court	38

Police.

A Police Force was established in the Bahama Islands in 1864 by an Act of Legislature.

The Force consists of four European Officers, a Sergeant Major and 124 other ranks. The number of other ranks is temporarily reduced by seven owing to economy. The Headquarters of the Bahamas Police Force is in Nassau, in the Island of New Providence. One police constable and a number of local and district constables are stationed and responsible for the policing of the Out Islands.

The Force is also the Fire Brigade for the Island of New Providence. It is equipped with five motor engines, the personnel for which are constables trained as firemen.

The Bahamas Police Force is a semi-military body, there being no Imperial or Defence Force. The Force is armed with S.M.L.E. rifles and also in possession of two 3-pounder Hotchkiss guns, also two Maxim machine-guns.

All guards and sentries are furnished by the Police Force. A Police Band consisting of 16 instruments is also maintained.

The men of the Bahamas Police Force are recruited from the various Bahama Islands, Jamaica and Barbados. During 1936 several men were recruited for service in this Police Force from Barbados.

Prisons.

There are official "lock-ups" in all Out Island districts, but all prisoners sentenced to terms exceeding three months are sent to the central prison in Nassau, which has single cell accommodation for 102 male and 16 female prisoners.

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being pulmonary, venereal, and skin diseases, and constipation.

There is no separate provision for juveniles in the central prison, but this class of male offender is committed to the Industrial School, a reformatory managed by a Visiting Committee, where agriculture and other crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary schooling.

The daily average of prisoners in the Nassau Prison during 1936 was 124.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

A total of 41 Acts were passed by the Legislature during the year 1936, of which the following are the more important:—

1. *The Tariff Act,* 1936, consolidating the law regarding tariffs in the Colony.

2. *The Savings Bank Act,* 1936, which adopted, as legislation for the Colony, a model Act relating to Savings Banks which was prepared by the direction of the Secretary of State to promote uniformity in legislation on this subject throughout the Colonies.

3. *The Juvenile Offenders Act,* 1936, which establishes within the Colony legislation based on the model legislation intended for use throughout the Colonies.

4. *The Labour Minimum Wage Act,* 1936.—This Act was passed with the primary object of giving effect, in so far as local conditions within the Colony will permit, to the Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference which was held at Geneva in 1928. The Act empowers the Governor-in-Council to appoint Advisory Boards and upon the advice of such a Board the Governor-in-Council may fix a minimum wage in respect of any occupation in which the rate of wage paid is unreasonably low.

5. *The Harbour Dues Act* consolidating the law of the Colony relating to Harbour Dues and providing greater elasticity in the form of this legislation.

6. *The Reclamation and Drainage Act,* 1936, which was passed to enable action to be taken to improve the condition of areas within the Colony which are in an unsightly, swampy and unsanitary condition. The Act provides that upon an area being declared by the Governor-in-Council to be a reclamation area, the owner of any such area may be required to reclaim it. The Government itself doing the work, however, in the event of the owner being unable or unwilling to do so, and in such an event consequent expense to the Government would be recoverable under the provisions of the Act.

7. *The Currency Note Act,* 1936, which provides for the direct link of the currency of the Colony with the " Sterling exchange standard ". The Act is based on an Ordinance which serves as a model for legislation of this nature in other Colonies.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1931-32	386,374	422,706
1932-33	352,160	326,238
1933-34	338,061	310,381
1934-35	277,544	276,961
1935-36	297,568	288,969
	1,651,707	1,625,255

The actual excess of revenue over expenditure for this period was £26,452.

The Public Debt on the 31st March, 1936, amounted to £155,400 which sum represented a loan of £150,000 raised locally by sale of debentures issued under The Hotel Loan Act, 1924, and the unredeemed portion of a loan of £30,000 raised in 1915, which latter loan was entirely redeemed on 1st April, 1936. Provision is made for the redemption of the 1924 loan by annual contributions from the revenue to a Sinking Fund, which amounted on the 31st March, 1936, to £31,373 market value of the securities.

Investments in England in Trustee Securities, bearing interest at approximately 4½ per cent., and amounting at the end of the financial year to £260,277 market value, represent the liquid assets of the Colony. Other principal assets are represented by loans to two hotels to the sum of £647,000 secured by mortgages on the hotels.

Apart from Real Property Tax, which yielded £5,645 during the year, including collections of certain arrears in respect of previous years, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from the following sources:—

	Estimate nine months 1936.
	£
Customs	106,427
Port, wharf and harbour dues	11,450
Licences and internal revenue	11,139
Fees of Court, etc.	17,435
Posts and telegraphs	19,585
Interest	15,550
Electric power receipts	24,645

An excise duty of 6d. a hundred is imposed on cigarettes, but with this exception no excise duties are levied. Stamp duties are imposed on instruments used in civil proceedings in the Supreme Court or in commercial or other transactions, and are based on the value of the transaction.

The Tariff Amendment Act, assented to on the 19th December, 1932, provides a customs revenue of 20 per cent.

ad valorem on most imports, though there are some items specifically taxed, while alcoholic beverages and tobacco pay a much higher rate.

A sliding scale on agricultural products devised to protect articles capable of production in the Colony is included. There is an export tax on pineapple and sisal plants, wrecked goods, and articles imported for a temporary purpose and exempted from duty under certain conditions. Chief among the exemptions from duty are printed books, flying machines, and essentials to agriculture and to the manufacture of native products. A list of prohibited imports injurious to health and morals is included.

The Imperial Preference Act was repealed during the year 1932, and a new tariff enacted to accord to British goods such preferences as were provided for under the terms of the Ottawa Agreement. By this Act a preference of 50 per cent. is accorded to British importations; specific exceptions to this general preference are, however, included.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Official.

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Bede E. H. Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., Governor, at the invitation of the President of the United States of America, proceeded on the 29th April to Washington where he and Lady Clifford were the guests of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House.

In June His Excellency accompanied the Naval Commander-in-Chief to Central America and the United States in H.M.S. *York*.

The Honourable J. H. Jarrett, K.C., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government on both occasions.

Visit of President of United States of America.

On the 31st March, the President of the United States of America came into the harbour of Nassau in the yacht *Potomac*.

Art show.—The Bahamian Art Show, which owes its inspiration and success to Lady Clifford, was held in the Church Hall, George Street, in February and March. There can be no doubt that this exhibition, which is held annually, is doing much to advertise Nassau.

Prison Commission appointed.—On the 2nd July, the Governor appointed a Commission " to enquire generally into the administration of the Nassau Prison: and particularly into the allegations appearing in the evidence given at the Coroner's Inquest into the death of one Noel Josephs, a prisoner, which occurred at the Nassau Prison on the 1st June, 1936 ".

The Commission held Sessions in July and August. Evidence was taken from Prison Officials and the Public.

The Commission, in its report, expressed satisfaction with the administration of the Nassau Prison including the treatment of prisoners.

The Commission unanimously reported that there was no evidence which they could accept in support of the allegations appearing in the evidence given at the Coroner's Inquest to the effect that Noel Josephs suffered maltreatment prior to his death.

Crown Lands.—The amount collected during the year from rentals of Crown Lands amounted to £491 10s.

Tourists and Publicity.—The tourist traffic to Nassau has increased greatly in recent years, and during the Season of 1936—January to March—19,876 persons visited Nassau from the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom, with a total of 46,732 for the year.

Nassau as a tourist resort is growing in popularity, and many prominent persons from the countries above mentioned have purchased property in Nassau or on adjacent islands and have built winter homes.

A publicity campaign was carried out by the Development Board with satisfactory results. Attractive folders were issued and widely circulated, numerous persons were communicated with personally, and striking advertisements were carried in the prominent publications of England, Canada and the United States of America.

Weather Conditions.—The Colony very fortunately escaped the ravages of hurricanes during the year, although a small storm passed over some of the islands on the 28th July, causing two deaths at Bimini.

Visits of His Majesty's Ships.—The following ships of His Majesty's West Indies Squadron visited the Colony during 1936:—

H.M.S. *York,* flying the flag of Vice-Admiral The Honourable Sir Matthew Best, Commander-in-Chief of the America and West Indies Station.
H.M.S *Scarborough.*
H.M.S. *Dragon.*
R.F.A. *Celerol.*
H.M.S. *Apollo.*

Visits of His Majesty's Canadian Ships.
H.M.C.S. *Saguenay.*
H.M.C.S. *Champlain.*

Visits of United States Ships.—The following ships of the United States Navy visited Nassau during 1936:—
U.S. Coastguard Cutter *Pandora.*
U.S. Coastguard Cutter *Vigilant.*
U.S. Submarine *Pike.*

Yachting.—The harbour of Nassau lends itself admirably to yachting and this sport is indulged in to a considerable extent by local and visiting yachtsmen.

In March, 1936, the annual regatta of the Royal Nassau Sailing Club was held, when the cup presented by His late Majesty King George V for Pirate Class Yachts was won by His Excellency the Governor in the *Malice Scourge*.

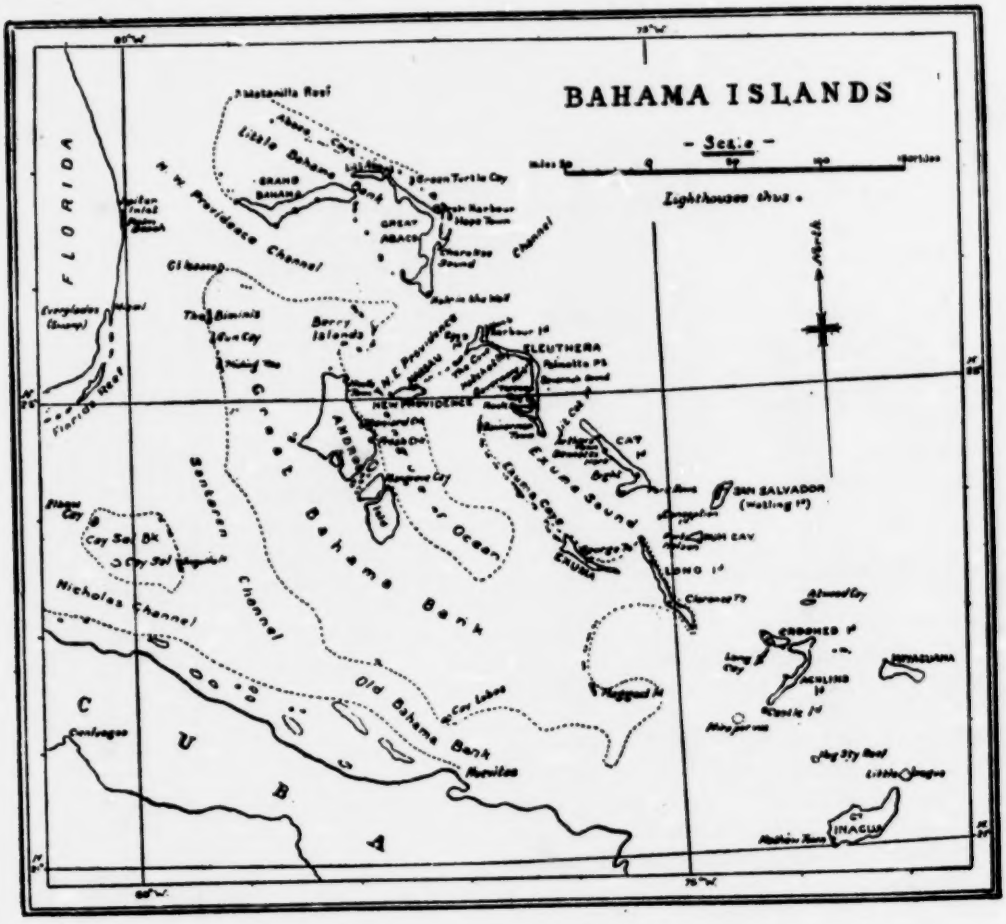
In March, 1936, the International Ocean Yacht Race took place, starting at Miami, Fla., and finishing at Nassau. This is an annual event for a trophy competed for by local and American yachts, and is keenly contested. The race was won by Mr. C. A. Hansen's *Water Witch*.

The United States Coastguard Cutters *Vigilant* and *Pandora* accompanied the yachts and offered every facility for promoting the event.

APPENDIX.

Bahamas Publications, etc.

Title.	*Price.*	*Agents for Sale.*
Laws :		The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London. The Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas.
Revised Edition, volumes 1 and 2, Cloth bound.	2 guineas per volume.	
Bound half calf	3 guineas per volume.	
Annual volumes for years subsequent to 1928.	½d. per printed page.	
Single copies of Acts	,, ,,	
Rules, Regulations and Orders-in-Council.	,, ,,	
Blue Books	10s.	
Official Gazette	½d. per printed page. Annual subscription, 12s. 6d.	
Departmental Reports...	½d. per printed page.	
Census, 1931	2s.	
Atlas with maps of Bahama Islands...	10s.	
Bahamas Hand Book, 1926 (by Mary Moseley, M.B.E.).	10s.	
Public Health and Medical conditions in New Providence (by Sir Wilfred Beveridge, K.B.E., C.B., M.B., C.M. (Edin.) D.P.H. (Camb.) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).	10s.	
Law Report, Volume 1, 1900–1906 (Edited by Kenneth Solomon, K.C., Member of Bahamas Bar).	6s.	
Sand-fly Report, 1932 (by Dr. J. G. Myers, Sc.D., F.Z.S., F.E.S.).	9d.	Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P. Bahamas.
Memorandum on Agriculture in Bahamas (by Hon. Charles Dundas, C.M.G., O.B.E.).	2s.	
Memorandum on Historic Forts of Nassau (by Sir Bede E. H. Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O.).	1s.	
Law Finder—A Guide to Legislation in force in the Bahama Islands on the 1st November, 1934 (by J. H. Jarrett, K.C.).	2s. 6d.	



(44714—48) Wt. 2162—3889 750 11/37 P. St. G. 377/7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A comprehensive Survey, including Memoranda on the Economic Situation of the individual Dependencies and on the Products of the Colonial Empire

Survey for 1935 [Colonial No. 126] £1 5s. (£1 5s. 8d.)

CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Fourth Edition, 1937

I. Africa [Colonial No. 127-1] 3s. 0d. (3s. 3d.)

II. Eastern, Mediterranean, and Pacific [Colonial No. 127-2] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.)

III. West Indies [Colonial No. 127-3] 4s. 0d. (4s. 4d.)

EMPIRE SURVEY

Report of the Proceedings of the Conference of Empire Survey Officers, 1935.

The Conference was mainly occupied with questions related to trigonometrical and topographical surveying. It also discussed the various aspects of air survey work with particular reference to aerial photography and the production of charts and maps [Colonial No. 111] £1. (£1 0s. 6d.)

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A Survey [Colonial No. 124] 6d. (7d.)

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1936, to 31st March, 1937 [Cmd. 5537] 6d. (7d.)

PALESTINE ROYAL COMMISSION

Report [Cmd. 5479] 6s. 6d. (6s. 8d.)

Minutes of Evidence (with Index) [Colonial No. 134] £1 15s. (£1 15s. 6d.)

Memoranda prepared by the Government of Palestine [Colonial No. 133] 9s. (9s. 6d.)

Summary of Report (with Extracts and Map) [Colonial No. 135] 9d. (10d.)

PALESTINE

Statement of Policy by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. [Cmd. 5513] 1d. (1½d.)

THE HADHRAMAUT: SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Report by W. H. Ingrams, O.B.E. (with map) 3s. (3s. 3d.)

MUI TSAI IN HONG KONG AND MALAYA

Report of Commission [Colonial No. 125] 5s. 0d. (5s. 4d.)

EDUCATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2: Adastral House, Kingsway

EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street

CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street

or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH GUIANA
BRITISH HONDURAS
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
NIGERIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
NYASALAND
PERLIS
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
TRENGGANU
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
CAMEROONS under British Mandate
TOGOLAND under British Mandate

Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices are obtainable from the Sale Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

S.O. Code No. 58–1819

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1878

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

BAHAMAS, 1937

(For Reports for 1935 and 1936 see Nos. 1768 and 1819 respectively (Price 1s. 3d.).)

Crown Copyright reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;
26 York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any bookseller

1939

Price 9d. net

PRINTED & PUBLISHED
IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE COLONIAL EMPIRE IN 1937-38

Statement to accompany the Estimates for Colonial and Middle Eastern Services 1938.

[Cmd. 5760] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A comprehensive Survey, including Memoranda on the Economic Structure of the individual Dependencies and on the Products of the Colonial Empire.

Survey for 1936 Colonial No. 140] £1 7s. 6d. (£1 8s. 2d.)

MARKETING OF WEST AFRICAN COCOA

Report of Commission [Cmd. 5845] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.)

EMPIRE SURVEY

Report of the Proceedings of the Conference of Empire Survey Officers, 1935

The Conference was mainly occupied with questions related to trigonometrical and topographical surveying. It also discussed the various aspects of air survey work, with particular reference to aerial photography and the production of charts and maps [Colonial No. 111] £1 (£1 os. 6d.)

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1937, to 31st March, 1938 [Cmd. 5806] 9d. (10d.)

EDUCATION AND NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 102] 6d. (7d.)

RIOTING IN EAST AFRICA

Report of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies [Colonial No. 149] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

THE INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO THE COLONIAL DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A Summary of Regulations as at the end of December, 1936

[Colonial No. 141] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A Survey [Colonial No. 122] 6d. (7d.)

EAST AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, AMANI

Tenth Triennial Report [Colonial No. 132] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

NUTRITION POLICY IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 18th April, 1936

[Colonial No. 121] 3d. (3½d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2: York House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street
or through any bookseller

Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS FOR 1937

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate and History	2
II.	Government	4
III.	Population	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	9
VI.	National Resources	9
VII.	Commerce	14
VIII.	Labour	17
IX.	Wages and Cost of Living	18
X.	Education and Welfare Institutions	18
XI.	Communications and Transport	20
XII.	Public Works	22
XIII.	Justice, Police, and Prisons	24
XIV.	Legislation	25
XV.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures ...	26
XVI.	Public Finance and Taxation	27
XVII.	Miscellaneous	29
	Appendix—Bahamas Publications	31
	Sketch Map.	

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of the Bahamas, a chain of islands, cays, rocks and reefs lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba, form the northern group of the West Indian Archipelago which stretches in a curve from the southern coast of North America to the northern coast of South America, and consists of the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles. Extending over an area of 760 miles the Bahamas comprise nearly 700 islands and over 2,000 cays and rocks. The aggregate land surface of the group is 4,400 square miles, which is slightly less than that of Jamaica, the largest of the British West Indian Islands.

New Providence, although not one of the larger islands, is the most important, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and is inhabited by more than one-quarter of the total population of the Colony. The island is about 21 miles in length from east to west, and seven miles in breadth from north to south. It is mostly flat and covered with brush wood, and has several extensive lagoons.

The islands are mostly long, narrow and low-lying, and except in the cases of Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama, not well wooded.

There are extensive pine forests on Andros, Grand Bahama, and Abaco, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood is to be found on the last-mentioned island and at Andros.

The ground is very rocky, but there are patches of excellent land containing rich fertile soil, and there are extensive tracts of land in some of the islands which are suitable for pasture.

There are no mountains, and very few hills, but the islands are by no means lacking in beauty. The fine white sand studded with powdered pink coral, and the ever changing and wonderful colouring of the sea, makes a picture which is not easily forgotten.

Climate.

The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September and October. The total rainfall for 1937 in New Providence was 31·28 inches.

The greatest heat is experienced during July, August and September, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90° F. Although the heat during the summer months is trying, and the mosquitoes and sandflies are troublesome, the islands are never unhealthy. The malaria mosquito is unknown in the Colony.

History.

At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647, a Company of " Eleutherian Adventurers " was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670, yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673, one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in

1690, another was deposed and imprisoned; and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680, the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba. In 1703, a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed. In 1776, however, a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony, which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

" The Eleutherian Adventurers," who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them a conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The Charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution, much as it

exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, was created as a separate Council by Royal Letters Patent in 1841.

The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence, or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred in June, 1928, and in May, 1935. No forms of local Government exist.

III.—POPULATION.

The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group:—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last Census (1931).*
Abaco and Cays	776	4,233
Acklins	133	1,765
Andros	1,600	7,051
Berry Islands	10	222
Bimini	8	736
Cat Island	160	3,959
Cay Sal and Cay Lobos	1¼	20
Crooked Island	76	1,329
Eleuthera	158	6,168
Exuma and Cays	80	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Harbour Island	1½	793
Inagua	560	607
Long Island	130	4,515
Long Cay	8	144
Mayaguana	90	518
New Providence	60	19,756
Ragged Island and Cays	4	424
Rum Cay	29	252
San Salvador or Watlings	60	675
Spanish Wells	½	566
	4,375¼	59,828

The estimated population for the whole Colony on 31st December, 1937, was 66,908, made up of 31,360 males and 35,548 females.

Births.—There were 2,189 births in the Colony during the year, or 36·6 per 1,000 based on the census figures, 1931.

Deaths.—There were 1,019 deaths in the Colony during the year, or 17·0 per 1,000 based on the census figures, 1931.

Marriages.—There were 602 marriages in the Colony during the year. The marriages were performed by Marriage Officers of the following denominations:—

Anglican	73
Roman Catholic	41
Methodist	38
Baptist	352
Others	98

Infantile Mortality.—There were 443 deaths of children under one year, or 212·5 per 1,000 living births.

Emigration and Immigration.—During the year 13,947 persons left the Colony and 13,466 were admitted, of whom a large proportion were winter visitors.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Act (Chapter 258) and strict supervision is exercised by the authorities to prevent undesirable immigrants and passengers arriving in the Colony.

IV.—HEALTH.

The climate of the Colony is most conducive to good health. Nassau, the capital, can boast of an excellent pipe-borne water supply, and up-to-date sewerage system, as well as an ice plant. The city water and the ice manufactured from it are analysed weekly, and milk supplies (mostly pasteurized) are analysed monthly. Both have shown a high bacteriological standard.

Medical.

The Medical and Public Health Service is administered by a Health Board, of which the Chief Medical Officer is Chairman.

The medical problems in the Bahamas are chiefly those arising out of poverty and ignorance—syphilis, tuberculosis and pellagra, in that order of importance. Otherwise the Colony is a remarkably healthy one. Malaria has disappeared, typhoid is fast disappearing, hook-worm is unknown, diphtheria sporadic, and the infectious diseases are unimportant.

The Government expended on medical care during 1937 the sum of £15,605 and on sanitation £5,858, or 4·2 per cent. of the Colony's revenue.

The medical needs of the Colony in New Providence are met by the Bahamas General Hospital, which has a full-time resident

staff of three doctors, a European matron, three European sisters and 49 native nurses. In all a staff of 118 (all ranks).

The service of the hospital is furnished largely free of charge. There is an out-patient department, in which 15,484 persons were treated in 1937, a general hospital which had 3,099 admissions, a lunatic asylum, infirmary, dental clinic, venereal and gynaecological clinic.

There are well equipped X-ray and bacteriological laboratories.

The total cost per resident patient at the Bahamas General Hospital was 4s. 0½d. per day.

The following is a table of the principal groups of diseases treated at the Bahamas General Hospital during the year, together with the mortality arising from these diseases:—

Disease.	*Number of Cases.*	*Number of Deaths.*
Typhoid fever	11	2
Tuberculosis	92	43
Venereal diseases	213	18
Pellagra	24	2
Diseases of the heart	57	22
Diarrhoea and enteritis under two years ...	11	3
Puerperal eclampsia	7	3
Diseases of infancy	28	10

The above diseases occurred chiefly among the wage-earning population.

The Out Islands are served medically by three Government District Medical Officers, who are stationed at the larger and more important islands, but who tour the other settlements at intervals. Licensed midwives and unqualified medical practitioners assist in dispensing medical aid.

Leprosy.—There is a leper colony which has 16 inmates, situated in the Pine Barrens, which is a considerable distance from the inhabited parts of New Providence.

Child Welfare.

(*a*) Midwives are now given one year's training at the Bahamas General Hospital, and then sent back to the various Out Islands.

(*b*) Infant welfare clinics are held tri-weekly in New Providence. These are attended by a private practitioner. A full-time specially qualified welfare nurse is employed to supervise these clinics and do house-to-house visiting.

The last three months of each undergraduate nurse's course (four years) at the hospital are devoted to Child Welfare work under the guidance of the Welfare Nurse-in-charge.

(*c*) There is an ante-natal clinic conducted by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity.

(*d*) There is a small " Good Will Centre " for orphan girls supported by public subscription.

(*e*) The Government conducts a Boys' Industrial School of some 60 boys.

Sanitation.

(*a*) The policies of the Health Board are carried out by a Chief Sanitary Inspector who holds a qualification from the Royal Sanitary Institute. There are four sanitary inspectors for New Providence, and in the Out Islands there are local Boards of Health with the Island Commissioner acting as Chairman in the absence of a District Medical Officer.

(*b*) Chlorinated city water is examined bacteriologically once a week, and increasing numbers of houses are being connected to the system. The old open wells for supplying public drinking water have been done away with as far as possible, and public standpipes installed. Water-borne sewage is disposed of by the " activated sludge " process, and crude sewage is no longer discharged into the harbour to any extent.

(*c*) Both raw and pasteurized milk is sold, but a high standard of quality is insisted upon.

(*d*) Meat is inspected by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the sale of food in the Public Market is supervised by a full-time officer.

(*e*) The sale of food is permitted only in licensed premises, and food handlers come up bi-annually for medical examination.

The Health Department has continued to take care of street cleaning and garbage collection.

Co-operating with the Board of Pilotage, sand dredged from the harbour of Nassau has been made available to fill in low-lying areas, and a marked improvement in the drainage of the Pond District in Nassau has been effected thereby.

The general standard of hygiene in New Providence is quite good.

There are no estates, mines or factories in the Colony.

Through the co-operation of the Police Department and the buildings Inspector a considerable number of dilapidated buildings in various sections which were breeding places for rats have been condemned and removed.

Mosquito Control.

An active campaign to minimize the breeding of mosquitoes was pursued during the year. A species of Gambusia was found in abundance in inland ponds in the Island.

The Tropical Fish are very hardy and are excellent devourers of mosquito larvae. The fish have been placed in over 300 rain

water tanks, and in conjunction with weekly oiling of the catch basins of storm water drains a marked diminution of mosquitoes (*Culicidae* and *Aedes*) have been effected.

V.—HOUSING.

Wage-earners are found almost only in Nassau. Their housing consists principally of wooden two or three-roomed structures with separate outside kitchen and pit latrine, and devoid of other sanitary installations. Water in Nassau is now supplied almost exclusively from public drinking fountains (maintained from public funds) connected with the City's pure water supply.

Some houses are owned by the occupants; others are rented, the rate being 4s. to 8s. a week. Such houses are invariably built on separate plots, so that there is no crowding of houses and there are no slum areas.

The most urgent need is the replacement of numerous dwellings which are of such poor construction that they are incapable of withstanding hurricane winds of any great velocity. In an effort to improve on this condition, over 100 houses of special hurricane-proof design were built at public expense in replacement of houses destroyed in the hurricane of September, 1929. The cost of these houses, varying from £45 to £75, was made recoverable by weekly payments to be spread over four years, and it was hoped that the receipts would be available for further construction of houses for the wage-earning class, but the collection of instalments has proved difficult, and the scheme as originally contemplated cannot be developed until a substantial proportion of the capital outlay has been recovered.

No building societies exist in the Colony.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The natural resources of the Colony are marine, agricultural, and forest products. Except for forest exploitation on Abaco Island, production is conducted individually, there being neither factories, plantations, nor mines anywhere in the Colony.

Of the products of the Colony, sponge, crawfish, tomatoes, shell, salt and timber are exported, other commodities are at the present time produced only for local consumption.

No actual distinction exists between cultivation or other forms of production by persons of European and non-European descent. The former are principally engaged in commerce and the latter mainly in production; but persons of both races may be found engaged in one or the other of these pursuits, and such limited agricultural employment as exists is not restricted entirely to one race.

The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation, and the quantity of live stock in the Colony:—

Crops.	*Acres.*	*Live stock.*	*Number*
Citrus	500	Horses	3,500
Coconuts	650	Horned cattle	2,500
Onions	85	Sheep	20,000
Pineapples	50	Goats	11,350
Sisal	5,148	Swine	6,050
Tomatoes	800	Poultry	34,000
Other products ...	17,000		
Total	24,233	Total	77,400

Sponge.—The sponge industry was once one of the major industries of the Colony, but during past years, due to depletion of sponge beds by hurricanes, and lack of conservation of the young sponges by the sponge fishers, the industry has been adversely affected to a serious extent. During 1936 a sum of £6,000 was made available by the Development Fund for the rehabilitation of the sponge industry and the Bahamas Government is contributing towards this effort to re-establish the industry.

With the aid of this grant the Sponge Fishery Investigation Department is carrying out a comprehensive programme of research hydrography and sea water analysis, the biology of the living sponge, its mode of reproduction and growth rate, the behaviour and length of life of the larvae, and an extensive survey of the fishing grounds in the waters of the Colony.

The research work is carried out by a scientific staff of three at the department laboratory in Nassau, a field station at Mastic Cay, Bight of Andros, and on board the Research Vessel *Basil Blackett*. Advice arising out of the scientific work of the Sponge Fishery Investigation Department is transmitted from time to time to the Agricultural and Marine Products Board.

Certain areas where the evidence of over-fishing and hurricane damage have already been only too clear have been closed to enable their stock to recover. When the grounds have been nursed back to a better state of productivity, it should be possible to maintain them in that condition by a re-adjustment of the size limits and by occasional closures.

The Agricultural and Marine Products Board has issued a set of Rules relating to the sponge industry under which size limits and a close season are imposed; protected areas are defined; permits to engage in the sponge business, and licences to both sponge vessels and cultivators of sponge are issued by the Board; the sale of sponge is centralized to the Sponge Exchange at Nassau; an Exchange Inspector is appointed and his duties

defined; and the collection of market statistics is provided for. From a study of these statistical returns, evidence will be obtained as to the relative value of the fishery on the various grounds; and from year to year comparison of landings, useful information regarding questions of over-fishing, effect of the closure of areas, and other points of interest can be derived.

The Department has also been engaged on the evolution of methods of sponge cultivation under commercial conditions. Having established depots at salient points in the Bight of Andros (which has been closed to commercial fishing) work is proceeding over the whole area, testing the suitability of the various creeks and channels for sponge planting. The experience and knowledge gained, whether of methods or of sites, will be placed at the disposal of newcomers to the field of sponge planting, and it is hoped to build up a reserve stock of sponge of proved value from which planting enterprises in the area may be supplied at reasonable cost.

The number of sponges under cultivation by private enterprises has already passed the half million mark, and the few which have been placed on the market have realized a good price.

Prices on the exchange since October have improved over those of last year, and this has given a considerable stimulus to the output of vessels. No less than 250 vessels have fitted out for the winter fishing season as against 160 in 1936-7. The number of inshore boats varies considerably. The Commissioner at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, reports about 52. No other information is available.

It is hoped that room for a New Sponge Exchange will be available on land now being reclaimed from the harbour near Armstrong Street in Nassau; meanwhile the trade is taking steps to form an Association in order to be able to record the opinion of the trade as a whole on questions of general interest to the industry, and in order to be in a position to negotiate for a lease for the New Exchange.

The sales of sponges on the Nassau Sponge Exchange for the year 1937 were as follows:—

	January to June.			*July to December.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wool and Velvet	31,383	7	0	14,806	9	0
Grass	10,146	7	0	6,763	17	0
Reef	2,812	3	0	3,157	15	0
Hard Head	2,561	8	0	2,157	2	0
Totals	£46,903	5	0	£26,885	3	0

January to December, 1937 ... £73,788 8s. 0d.

Salt.—Coarse salt was formerly won in considerable quantities from salt-ponds in several islands. Efforts are now

being made to revive the trade and to produce a cleaner grade of salt which will sell more readily than the quality hitherto produced. These efforts have definitely produced the desired results especially at the Island of Inagua.

Fisheries.—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export.

The export of crawfish under licences was continued during the year and the exports amounted to 1,280,457 lbs., valued at £6,890, Royalty collected being £1,293 0s. 2d. The supply of this sea food shows no depletion and the position is being carefully followed by means of inspection tours in order to avoid any such occurrence. A patrol vessel was employed as usual for the purpose of visiting fishing areas and enforcing regulations governing the industry.

Sisal.—During the year 727 tons were exported at an estimated value of £8,477 as compared with 1,487 tons valued at £15,007 during the year 1936. There was a decline in this staple as the demand abroad was not very steady.

Agriculture.—The rocky nature of the land and the paucity of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the Islands have in the past been highly productive of sub-tropical cultivations, and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land.

On the Out Islands the people have always, on small farms, grown sufficient produce for their own needs. In Nassau, however, it has been necessary to import large quantities of fruit and vegetables.

During the past few years the Government has tried to encourage a greater interest in agriculture. Agricultural instructors have been placed at various islands and seed distributed free of charge. In an effort to foster agriculture, a Government Produce Exchange which was established last year for the marketing of produce from the Out Islands, has operated quite successfully. Local Farmers' Associations were formed, and it is hoped that the agricultural output will be greatly increased.

It is difficult to assess the number of persons engaged in agriculture. Practically everyone not engaged in commerce cultivates in a small way for his own needs. On the other hand, comparatively few live solely by cultivation of the soil.

Tomatoes.—The principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality, and in the past have found a ready sale on the New York market,

where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicaps Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now ceased; but exportation to Canada was developed, and the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax.

Citrus.—Down to the early years of the present century considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida, and was finally ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. The fly, however, is now well under control and very successful efforts are now being made to restore the cultivation of citrus. There is every prospect of the production in the near future being more than sufficient to meet local requirements.

Stock and Poultry.—Stock and poultry raising is conducted on a very limited scale for local consumption, but is hardly sufficient to supply the local demand. Experiments are now being conducted by the Agricultural Board with a view to improving the local stock.

Export of local produce.—The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years:—

		1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Cascarilla bark ...	lb.	27,388	48,944	49,056	31,360	35,616
	£	946	1,644	1,466	864	1,064
Tomatoes, raw ...	m. bushels	120	112	106	105	76
	£	26,451	20,444	26,064	27,610	15,561
Sisal hemp ...	tons	22	158	607	1,487	727
	£	162	1,371	3,709	15,007	8,477
Abaco pine timber	m. feet	4,347	1,649	2,861	1,992	3,313
	£	22,724	7,403	14,938	11,455	23,546
Woods, other ...	tons	130	30	226	123	103
	£	605	120	820	477	489
Shell, tortoise ...	lb.	3,622	6,543	6,290	4,813	3,787
	£	3,510	6,782	4,610	3,042	2,768
Shell, conch ...	no.	34,653	84,567	66,000	56,739	99,062
	£	196	343	339	242	453
Sponge	m. lb.	864	679	745	697	1,074
	£	84,562	58,250	51,954	54,912	84,852
Salt	m. bushe's	79	88	15	—	138
	£	765	1,087	193	—	1,584

VII.—COMMERCE.

The Colony is dependent almost entirely on imported food supplies, which comprised 33⅓ per cent. of the total value of imports.

The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	929,731	728,299	718,215	967,040	1,213,544
Exports	180,151	202,480	125,428	139,333	211,636
Totals (excluding specie) ...	£1,109,882	930,779	843,643	1,106,373	1,425,180

The following tables show the percentage of total imports and domestic exports provided by:—

IMPORTS.

(a) *Empire and foreign countries.*

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
British Empire ...	57·94	48·81	42·44	43·30	41·41
Foreign countries ...	42·06	51·19	57·56	56·70	58·59

(b) *Principal Supplying Countries.*

United Kingdom ...	27·03	25·06	23·47	24·62	22·36
Canada	28·13	18·55	13·67	13·47	12·64
Rest of Empire ...	2·78	5·40	5·30	5·22	6·41
United States of America	27·96	36·77	43·88	42·92	45·62
Other foreign countries	14·10	14·22	13·68	13·77	12·97

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

(a) *Empire and foreign countries.*

British Empire ...	52·76	58·31	60·86	52·71	48·83
Foreign countries ...	47·24	41·69	39·14	47·29	51·17

(b) *Principal Countries of Destination.*

United Kingdom ...	12·82	24·13	22·84	15·92	22·38
Canada	19·02	25·83	28·61	27·37	14·72
Jamaica	9·91	8·09	9·34	8·66	11·18
Rest of Empire ...	7·78	·27	·07	·77	·56
United States of America	19·95	19·91	20·36	32·23	34·58
Holland	9·66	12·83	6·24	8·33	5·47
Other foreign countries	20·86	8·94	12·54	6·72	11·16

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Article.	*1936.*		*1937.*		*Principal countries of origin with values in £'000.*
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	
		£		£	
Class I.					
Flour ... ... M. bbls.	53	53,139	50	65,956	Canada (47), Australia (10), United Kingdom (7).
Meats, all kinds ... tons ...	496	48,480	629	62,968	United States of America (31), Canada (17), Argentine (11), United Kingdom (1).
Wines, spirits, etc.	—	65,567	—	57,474	United Kingdom (17), Jamaica (10), France (8).
Provisions, n.e.e.	—	19,819	—	25,249	United States of America (10), United Kingdom (3), Canada (2).
Lard and substitutes ... tons ...	474	20,273	450	20,725	United Kingdom (19), Canada (1).
Rice ... ... tons ...	1,601	16,489	1,854	17,358	India (16).
Class II.					
Lumber ... ... M. ft. ...	4,216	27,255	4,677	42,579	United States of America (36), Canada (4).
Class III.					
Motor cars, parts and tyres	—	40,443	—	62,031	United States of America (35), Canada (17), United Kingdom (6).
Furniture	—	33,072	—	54,855	United States of America (42), United Kingdom (9), Canada (1).
Apparel	—	39,587	—	51,129	United Kingdom (26), United States of America (16) Hong Kong (3) Canada (3).
Hardware	—	28,363	—	45,650	United States of America (36), United Kingdom (7).
Cotton manufactures	—	39,069	—	44,979	United Kingdom (26), United States of America (17).
Electrical apparatus and appliances	—	19,159	—	33,362	United States of America (31), United Kingdom (2).

Principal Domestic Exports.

Article.	*1936.*		*1937.*		*Principal countries of destination.*
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	
		£		£	
Class I.					
Tomatoes, raw ... M. bushels	105	27,610	75	15,561	Canada (15).
Class II.					
Sponge ... ... M. lb. ...	697	54,912	1,074	95,350	United States of America (34), United Kingdom (31), Holland (9), Canada (6), Belgium (5).
Lumber ... ... M. feet ...	1,992	11,455	3,313	23,546	Jamaica (18), Cuba (4).

Exports of Coin and Notes.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Bullion and specie—	£	£	£	£	£
Gold	—	7,865	—	2,735	5,526
Silver	—	46,000	—	36	—
£	—	53,865	—	2,771	5,526

Imports of Coin and Notes.

Bullion and Specie—					
Silver	—	—	—	200	1,658
Gold	—	2,819	5,547	—	4,151
£	—	2,819	5,547	200	5,809

Tourists and Publicity.—The tourist traffic to Nassau has increased greatly in recent years, and during the Season of 1937—January to March—28,548 persons visited Nassau from the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom, with a total of 58,603 for the year.

Nassau as a tourist resort is growing in popularity, and many prominent persons from the countries above mentioned have purchased property in Nassau or on adjacent islands and have built winter homes.

A publicity campaign was carried out by the Development Board with satisfactory results. An office of the Board was established in London, England, under the care of a London representative. An increased number of attractive folders was issued and widely circulated, numerous persons were communicated with personally, and striking advertisements were carried in the prominent publications of England, Canada and the United States of America.

VIII.—LABOUR.

The principal industries of the Colony are those concerned with agricultural and marine pursuits and those engaged therein are not wage-earners proper, and seasonal industries provide what may be best described as casual employment.

A steady increase has been shown during the year in the building and allied trades and consequently employment of skilled and general labourers shows corresponding increase.

During the year unemployment did not present a problem sufficiently acute to warrant special action on the part of the Government, and the labour supply was adequate to meet the increased demand.

In certain industries, wages are regulated by Orders in Council made under the Minimum Wage Act of 1936.

On certain of the Out Islands of the group, major developments are being undertaken which should, as time progresses, increase the proportion of wage-earning labourers in the Colony to a point where the produce of Out Island peasant farmers can be absorbed and casual labour reduced to a minimum.

The following table shows approximate numbers of persons employed in the principal industries and the rates of wages paid to them:—

Industry.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Wages per diem.* *Male.*	*Female.*
				s. d.	s. d.
Unskilled	4,000	5,000	9,000	4 0	2 0
Agricultural	150	200	350	2 6	1 6
Sponge and other Fishermen	4,000	—	—	—	—
General Labourers in Lumber Industry	400	—	—	2 6 to 4	0
Skilled	300	—	—	6 0 to 20	0
Mechanics	300	—	—	8 0 to 24	0

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No material change in wages took place during the year, and the following are the wages paid to Government employees during a working week of five days:—

	Per day (Shillings).
Blacksmiths	17
Carpenters	8 to 10
Labourers	4
Masons	6 to 8
Painters	4 to 6
Plumbers	6 to 10
Truck drivers	6 to 7

Government and private employees usually work 8½ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive 10s. to 20s. per week, and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 2s. to 4s. a day.

The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, and sugar, and he spends about 9d. a day on his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

Average cost of living for officials.—The cost of living in New Providence is high. The tariff in the first-class hotels varies from £2 per day to £4 per day, inclusive, during the winter season, and in the smaller hotels the tariff during the same period is approximately £2 per day, inclusive. During the period May to November, inclusive, accommodation may be obtained in the smaller hotels for approximately £1 4s. per day. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding house for £5 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £400 a year.

A furnished bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case a married couple, without children, should be able to live on about £600 a year. Unfurnished bungalows can be obtained for about £100 a year.

In the Out Islands there are no hotels or boarding houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Primary Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years of age, and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The total amount expended by the Board of Education during 1937 was £18,312, giving an average cost per pupil on the total roll for the year of £1 9s. 4d.

The Board maintained 55 schools, and grants-in-aid were paid to 64 schools. The total roll was 12,490. In addition to these schools which are directly under the control of the Board of Education, there are 39 denominational schools with a total roll of over 2,300 pupils and a number of private schools with over 400 pupils. Owing to the scattered population, this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate. A number of children are out of the reach of any school, and in some localities attendance at school entails a certain amount of hardship on young children.

In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government, prominence has been given in all Board schools to agricultural training. This is becoming an outstanding feature of education in the Bahamas. Sewing lessons for girl pupils have been introduced in a number of schools, and two centres for cooking classes for girls and two for woodwork classes for boys have been established in Nassau. Six teachers were sent to the Summer School at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, U.S.A., to study agricultural subjects.

The Board employed 93 teachers (principal and assistant), among whom were six from other West Indian Colonies, and in addition 64 grant-in-aid teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education, and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by several religious bodies, which are assisted by grants-in-aid from the Government, provided that they meet the requirements laid down in the Secondary Education Act. The total school roll at the end of the year was 13,262, slightly over 400 being in secondary schools.

Welfare Institutions.

An infirmary, and lunatic and leper asylums, the inmates of which are admitted free of charge, are maintained by the Government, and are under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it, and free rations were issued to 585 paupers in the Colony during the year 1937. The Infant Welfare Department of the Bahamas General Hospital and the pre-natal clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, which receives a Government subsidy, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks, housemaids, and hotel waiters, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service.

There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many friendly societies existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in

effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are four cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

During the year 1937, 2,976 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 3,137,769, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number 613 vessels with a total tonnage of 1,897,010 called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Royal Mail Line. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company has inaugurated a service with this Colony, and during the year 21 calls were made at Nassau by ships of this line, which landed 154 and embarked 138 passengers. This service fulfils a long-felt want for direct communication with the United Kingdom at a moderate cost, and by comfortable ships which perform the voyage within 14 days. During January to April a weekly passenger service between New York and Nassau is provided by the Cunard White Star Line, and the Clarke Steamship Line maintains a tri-weekly service with Miami, Florida. The Munson Steamship Company gives a fortnightly passenger and freight service from New York, embracing Nassau, Miami and Havana, returning by the same route. The Canadian National Steamship vessels call at Nassau every two weeks *en route* from Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda to Jamaica, calling at Nassau on the return journey every alternate week; in the winter these vessels also call at Boston. A weekly service for carriage of fruit is maintained by the same line during the tomato season. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 130 vessels of 162,277 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports. During the tourist season from November to April numerous large cruise vessels call at Nassau.

Roads.

All the main roads are surfaced with asphalt and due to the general improvement in recent years motor vehicles have increased to 1,454. The Out Island roads are the usual rock surfaced roads adequate for the rare wheeled traffic. In Eleuthera the road is 70 miles long, and Long Island has a similar road. These roads have materially assisted the agricultural development of these islands.

Post Office.

During 1937 the business of the Post Office shows a large increase over 1936, largely due to the issue of stamps in commemoration of the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI,

the increase in the sale of stamps was £10,946 of which amount the Coronation stamps were responsible for about £8,000.

There is a direct mail service to Bermuda, Canada and Jamaica every fortnight by the ships of the Canadian National Steamship Company.

During the period between the 1st January and the 30th April there is a daily Air Mail service between Miami, Florida, and Nassau, the balance of the year the service being on Mondays and Fridays. The service is operated by Pan American Airways Incorporated.

Besides the above service there is a weekly mail service during the winter season from New York by the Cunard White Star Liner *Carinthia,* and from Miami, Florida, the s.s. *New Northland* performs a service from the 1st January to April.

Throughout the year there is a fortnightly service from New York by the Munson Steamship Line steamer ***Munargo,*** and also during the summer there are excursion steamers bringing mail from New York.

In addition there is frequent communication with Miami, Florida, by various motor vessels throughout the year.

Telegraphs.

Telegraph communication is effected by wireless service, maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, with 20 stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

The Nassau W/T station maintains continuous watch on:— 500kc/sec (600 m.), with an alternate working frequency of 438 kc/sec (685 m.), c.w. slightly modulated. From 35 minutes to 45 minutes past each hour a watch is kept on 143 kc/sec (2,100 m.).

From the hour to 10 minutes past each hour 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. a watch is kept on 12,500 kc/sec (24 m.) and at the hour to 10 minutes past, 7.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m., on 8,333 kc/sec (36 m.).

High frequency communications on point-to-point service are maintained continuously with Hialeah, Florida, on 3,334 kc/sec (89.98 m.), 4,260 kc/sec (70 m.) and 5,769 kc/sec (52 m.), and during the winter months January to April, with the same station for stock brokerage service on 5,085 kc/sec (59 m.) and 3,216 kc/sec (93.20m.).

With Kingston, Jamaica, daily from 7.45 a.m. to 6.45 p.m. each hour at 45 minutes past on 8,135 kc/sec (36.88 m.), with two emergency schedules at 10.15 p.m. and 3.30 a.m. on 500 kc/sec (600 m.) and 143 kc/sec (2,100 m.), respectively.

High frequency transmitters and receivers have also been supplied to all the Out Island W/T stations and operate a fixed service with Nassau and each other on 5,300 kc/sec (56.6 m.),

in addition the stations at Clarence Town, Long Island, Bimini, Cat Cay and San Salvador are fitted with the alternate frequency of 3,125 kc/sec (96 m.).

Overseas Telephone communication is maintained on a frequency of 4,512 kc/sec (66.44 m.) from Nassau connecting through the Hialeah, Florida, telephone terminal to all points in the United States, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Hawaii, the Phillipine Islands, Great Britain, Europe and other countries as well as to vessels at sea so equipped. This circuit is maintained between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily with extended hours during the months of the winter season.

All times quoted in this report are Eastern Standard, five hours slow on Greenwich Mean Time.

The Out Island stations have proved of great benefit to the industries and inhabitants of these islands, and are very useful for administrative and police purposes, and the dissemination of storm warnings.

Telephones.

In Nassau there is a manually operated system owned and operated by the Bahamas Government with 1,077 subscribers. Of the other islands of the Bahamas group, Eleuthera has some 40 miles of telephone line, Cat Island 30 miles of line and Long Island 52 miles of line, connecting the principal settlements to the Wireless Stations of the islands in question.

During the past year considerable attention has been given to the question of reorganizing and modernizing the telephone system in New Providence.

An officer with a wide experience of overseas telephone problems was engaged to report on the matter.

The report, which recommended the installation of an automatic system with underground cables to cost approximately £65,000 was adopted and contracts placed for the apparatus and cables.

Steps have been taken to expedite the work with a view to bringing the new system into operation on the earliest possible date.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department superintends the construction and maintenance of all public works, which includes:—

Water Works.—Recovery, distribution and administration.

Sewerage.—Collection, disposal and administration.

Lighthouses.—For local Out Islands navigation, the Department built and maintains 30 Gas Automatic lighthouses and also 37 oil lights of purely local interest.

Inspection and control of building.—Plans of all private buildings and sanitary arrangements are controlled by the Department.

Maintenance.—Public parks, gardens, including nursery which also sells plants to private individuals, public areas, forts, public buildings, wharfs, sheds, markets, drains, abutments, etc., all Out Island public works, including wharfs, buildings, roads and any improvements required from time to time: construction and upkeep of roads, paths, etc., in New Providence, and also some of the Out Island roads.

The Department carries out the above duties on behalf of the Board of Public Works, which consists of five members appointed by the Governor, and all funds are voted annually by the Legislature. The Department also supervises and carries out work for other Departments when necessary.

The expenditure was £37,136 for the fiscal period 1937, being mainly for maintenance, the Out Islands reconstruction and other Public Works proceeded with.

Waterworks and Sewerage Disposal.—The consumption of water supplied from Blue Hill Waterworks continues to rise, an increase of 24 per cent. over the 1936 period being noted due to the extensions of water services the previous year, and the water recovery area is now rendered inadequate. The development of a new tract of land now known as " Prospect Waterworks " is proceeding. These works are expected to yield 200,000 gallons per day early in 1938. The new supplies are of good quality and trial wells indicate a considerable depth of good drinking water of low salinity.

The total water services for 1937 are 1338—an increase of 158 for the year.

The Sanitary Sewers and Pumping Stations continue to give satisfaction and a considerable increase in sanitary plumbing has taken place largely by small hotels, boarding houses, etc., in anticipation of the needs of Winter visitors.

Inspection of Buildings.—The Board exercises rigid control of all construction in order that no abnormal or faulty construction takes place to spoil the general appearance of the Island. The results are very gratifying. The control of sanitation and plumbers, etc., is enforced to ensure proper work according to modern standards.

Public Buildings.—The existing Administrative and Public Buildings are inadequate for present needs, and will require extensions in the near future.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Law.—The Law of the Colony is:—

(*a*) The Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement and subject to the exceptions mentioned in the Declaratory Act (Chapter 7, Statutes, Revised Edition, 1929).

(*b*) Statutes of the Imperial Parliament specifically applied to the Colony by enactment of the Local Legislature.

(*c*) Statutes of the Colony's Legislature.

Courts.—There is a Supreme Court of the Colony which sits in Nassau, is presided over by a Chief Justice, and has the jurisdiction of a High Court of Justice in England. An appeal, in civil matters, lies from the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Supreme Court sits throughout the year as occasion requires, but ordinary Sessions are held quarterly for the disposal of Criminal Informations and of Civil actions, listed for trial by Jury. In 1937 the number of cases listed in the Supreme Court were, Criminal 36, Civil 121.

The principal Magisterial Court of the Colony is that of the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, who is stationed in Nassau, and appeals from his Court lie to the Supreme Court. Additionally, magisterial powers are exercised by the Commissioners in charge of Districts in the Out Islands, and by Justices of the Peace, and appeals from such Courts lie to the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, and to the Registrar-General, who annually go on circuit among the Out Islands, to hear such appeals and dispose of cases triable only, in original jurisdiction, by a Circuit Justice. The Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, Commissioners and, where so empowered, Justices of the Peace, are also responsible for the conduct in Court of preliminary inquiries into indictable offences triable by the Supreme Court.

Payment of fines by instalments is permitted in suitable cases, but the necessity seldom arises. The Penal Code provides for placing offenders on probation, but there are no regular probation officers, and it has been found that the practice of binding over of adult offenders on their own recognizances is sufficiently effective.

The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1937:—

Imprisoned	237
Whipped (Juveniles)	125
Fined	1,473
Bound over or otherwise disposed of	798
Discharged	293
Committed for trial in Supreme Court ...	46

Police.

A Police Force was established in the Bahama Islands in 1864 by an Act of Legislature.

The Force consists of six European Officers, a Sergeant-Major and 124 other ranks. The Headquarters of the Bahamas Police Force is in Nassau, in the Island of New Providence. One N.C.O. and three police constables and a number of local and district constables are stationed and responsible for the policing of the Out Islands.

The Force is also the Fire Brigade for the Island of New Providence. It is equipped with five motor fire engines, the personnel for which are constables trained as firemen.

The Bahamas Police Force is a semi-military body, there being no Imperial or Defence Force. The Force is armed with S.M.L.E. rifles and also in possession of two 3-pounder Hotchkiss guns, and two Maxim machine-guns.

All guards and sentries are furnished by the Police Force.

A Police Band consisting of 16 instruments is also maintained.

The men of the Bahamas Police Force are recruited from the various Bahama Islands, Jamaica and Barbados.

Prisons.

There are official " lock-ups " in all Out Island districts, but all prisoners sentenced to terms exceeding three months are sent to the central prison in Nassau, which has single cell accommodation for 102 male and 16 female prisoners.

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being pulmonary, venereal, and skin diseases, and constipation.

There is no separate provision for juveniles in the central prison, but this class of male offender is committed to the Industrial School, a reformatory managed by a Visiting Committee, where agriculture and other crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary schooling.

The daily average of prisoners in the Nassau Prison during 1937 was 113.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three Acts were passed by the Legislature during the year 1937—11 during the 1936-7 Session and 12 during the 1937-8 Session. The following are the more important:—

The Telephone Loan Act, 1937, which authorizes the Governor-in-Council to raise a loan not exceeding £25,000, to be applied in the reconstruction of the Telephone System for the Island of New Providence.

The Electricity Loan Act, 1937, enables the Governor-in-Council to raise a loan not exceeding £35,000, by the issue of debentures, to defray the cost of reconstruction of the electrical power system for the Island of New Providence.

The Court Deposits Act, 1937, provides for the payment of Court deposits to the Treasurer and for the reversion of such deposits to general revenue if unclaimed after efflux of time.

The Criminal Procedure Amendment Act, 1937, introduces into the law of the Colony power in the Court, in certain cases, to order in addition to any term of imprisonment imposed, that a period of police supervision not exceeding five years should follow the sentence imposed on conviction of an offender.

The Immigrants Amendment Act, 1937, strengthens control in regard to immigration and guards against expense to the Colony in respect of persons who have entered in contravention of the law or from ships as stowaways or deserters or who have otherwise effected an entry without prospect of employment or means of support.

The Prisons Amendment Act, 1937, effects amendment of the Prisons Act (Ch. 19, Revised Statutes, 1929) to govern the return to prison of a prisoner under licence to be at large when such licence is revoked and provides for the punishment of any prisoner who has broken any condition attaching to any such licence.

The Agricultural and Marine Products Board Amendment Act, 1936, amends the principal Act (Ch. 233, Revised Statutes, 1929) primarily to enable protected areas to be defined within which it shall be unlawful for any person other than a licensee of the Agricultural and Marine Products Board to take, capture or kill any kind of marine product.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

The only bank doing business in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November, 1937, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £1,886,659.

Savings Bank.—The Savings Bank shows another increase in deposits, the excess over the 1936 figure being £3,363. During the year ended the 30th June, 1937, there was an increase of 1,022 in the number of depositors and the balance due to depositors showed an increase of £4,459.

In the summer of 1937 the Savings Bank as an experiment began opening on Saturday afternoons for the purpose of receiving deposits only, which has enabled depositors to bank their week's savings.

Currency.

The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declared British sterling to be the money of account, and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £74,400 in local Government currency notes of 4s., 10s. and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £10,000 in British silver coin. United States currency is not legal tender in the Colony but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

The Note Security Fund held by the Commissioners of Currency on 31st December, 1937, was valued at £76,047, 6s. 5d. For the same period the Commissioners showed an excess of £2,721 1s. 10d. in receipts over expenditure, which was paid into General Revenue.

The Currency Note Act, 1936, which came into operation on the 1st November, 1936, declares currency notes issued under the Act to be legal tender in this Colony, and that they shall be deemed to be current coin of the Colony.

Under the Proclamation of His Majesty in Council of the 27th October, 1936, silver coins of the United Kingdom ceased to be legal tender in the Colony for payment of any amount exceeding 40s., with effect from the 1st November, 1936.

Weights and Measures.

By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1933–34	338,061	310,381
1934–35	277,544	276,961
1935–36	297,568	288,969
1936 (1st April—31st Dec.)	246,353	240,440
1937	513,926	419,235
	£1,673,452	£1,535,986

The actual excess of revenue over expenditure for this period was £137,466.

The authorized Public Debt on the 31st December, 1937, amounted to £188,000 which sum represented a loan of £150,000

raised locally by sale of debentures issued under the Hotel Loan Act, 1924, and a loan of £30,000 raised in November, 1936, for installing a new Telephone System. Eight thousand pounds is in respect of a loan from the Colonial Development Fund in connexion with Sponge Fishery Investigations. Issues from the fund are made quarterly and the amount actually received to date is £2,500. Provision is made for the redemption of the 1924 loan by annual contributions from the revenue to a Sinking Fund, which amounted on the 31st December, 1937, to £38,225 market value of the securities.

Surplus Funds Investments in England in Trustee Securities bearing interest at approximately 3 per cent., and amounting at the end of the financial year 1937 to £343,813 market value, represent the chief liquid assets of the Colony. Other principal assets are represented by loans to two hotels to the sum of £633,846 secured by mortgages on the hotels.

Apart from Real Property Tax, which yielded £4,843 during the year, including collections of certain arrears in respect of previous years, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from the following sources:—

	Estimate, 1938. £
Customs	217,075
Port, wharf and harbour dues	27,200
Licences and internal revenue	19,494
Fees of Court, etc.	32,447
Post Office Revenue	21,540
Interest	17,724
Electric power receipts	43,300
Telegraphs and Telephones	20,500

An excise duty of 6d. a hundred is imposed on cigarettes, but with this exception no excise duties are levied. Stamp duties are imposed on instruments used in civil proceedings in the Supreme Court or in commercial or other transactions, and are based on the value of the transaction.

The Tariff Amendment Act, assented to on the 19th December, 1932, provides a customs revenue of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on most imports, though there are some items specifically taxed, while alcoholic beverages and tobacco pay a much higher rate.

A sliding scale on agricultural products devised to protect articles capable of production in the Colony is included. There is an export tax on pineapple and sisal plants, wrecked goods, and articles imported for a temporary purpose and exempted from duty under certain conditions. Chief among the exemptions from duty are printed books, flying machines, and essentials to agriculture and to the manufacture of native products. A list of prohibited imports injurious to health and morals is included.

The Imperial Preference Act was repealed during the year 1932, and a new tariff enacted to accord to British goods such preferences as were provided for under the terms of the Ottawa Agreement. By this Act a preference of 50 per cent. is accorded to British importations; specific exceptions to this general preference are, however, included.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Official.—His Excellency the Governor, The Honourable Sir Bede Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., left the Colony on 23rd July, 1937, to take up his appointment as Governor of Mauritius.

The Honourable (now Sir) Charles Dundas, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., who was appointed to succeed Sir Bede Clifford as Governor of the Bahamas, arrived in the Colony and assumed the Administration of the Government on the 27th November, 1937. Sir Charles had previously served in the Colony as Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable J. H. Jarrett, K.C., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government from April to November during the period between the departure of Sir Bede Clifford and the arrival of his successor.

The Coronation.—The Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen was celebrated throughout the Colony with the greatest enthusiasm and loyalty. In Nassau, Government and private buildings were beautifully decorated with flags and bunting and the buildings and streets were most attractively illuminated at night with electric lights and fireworks. H.M.S. *Exeter's* visit added to the celebrations and a party from the ship staged a drill parade which was greatly appreciated by the large number of spectators who were there to witness it.

Art Show.—The Bahamian Art Show was again held, under the direction and inspiration of Lady Clifford, during February and March and proved an even greater success than that of last year.

Agricultural Exhibition.—An Agricultural Exhibition, organized by the Commissioner was held for the second time at Harbour Island in March under the patronage of the Governor. A large number of persons from Nassau visited the Exhibition which was quite a success and stimulated agricultural interest in the District.

Broadcasting Station.—The local Broadcasting Station Z.N.S. was opened in May. It radiates on a frequency of 540 Kilocycles and has a range of 150 miles. The station has

operated very satisfactorily, having created interest and provided entertainment and news items for both local and Out Island listeners. It is invaluable for storm warnings to the Out Islands.

Commissioners' Conference.—A conference of Out Island Commissioners was held in Nassau in October, so as to give the Commissioners an opportunity of exchanging their views and experiences, discussing their problems and benefiting from lectures and instructions by Heads of Departments in Nassau.

Crown Lands.—The amount collected during the year from rentals of Crown Lands amounted to £737 4s. 4d.

Weather Conditions.—The Colony fortunately escaped any storms during the year.

Visits of His Majesty's Ships.—The following ships of His Majesty's North America and West Indies Squadron visited the Colony during the year:—

H.M.S. *Dundee.* 24th March to 5th April.

H.M.S. *Apollo.* 29th December to 4th January, 1938.

H.M.S. *Exeter.* 9th to 13th May.

H.M.S. *Ajax.* 14th to 21st June.

Visits of United States Ships.—The United States Coastguard Cutters *Mojave* and *Pandora* visited Nassau during March.

Yachting.—The harbour of Nassau lends itself admirably to yachting and this sport is indulged in to a considerable extent by local and visiting yachtsmen.

In March, 1937, the annual regatta of the Royal Nassau Sailing Club was held, when the cup presented by His late Majesty King George V for Pirate Class Yachts was won by the Honourable Walter K. Moore, C.B.E., in the *Johanna.*

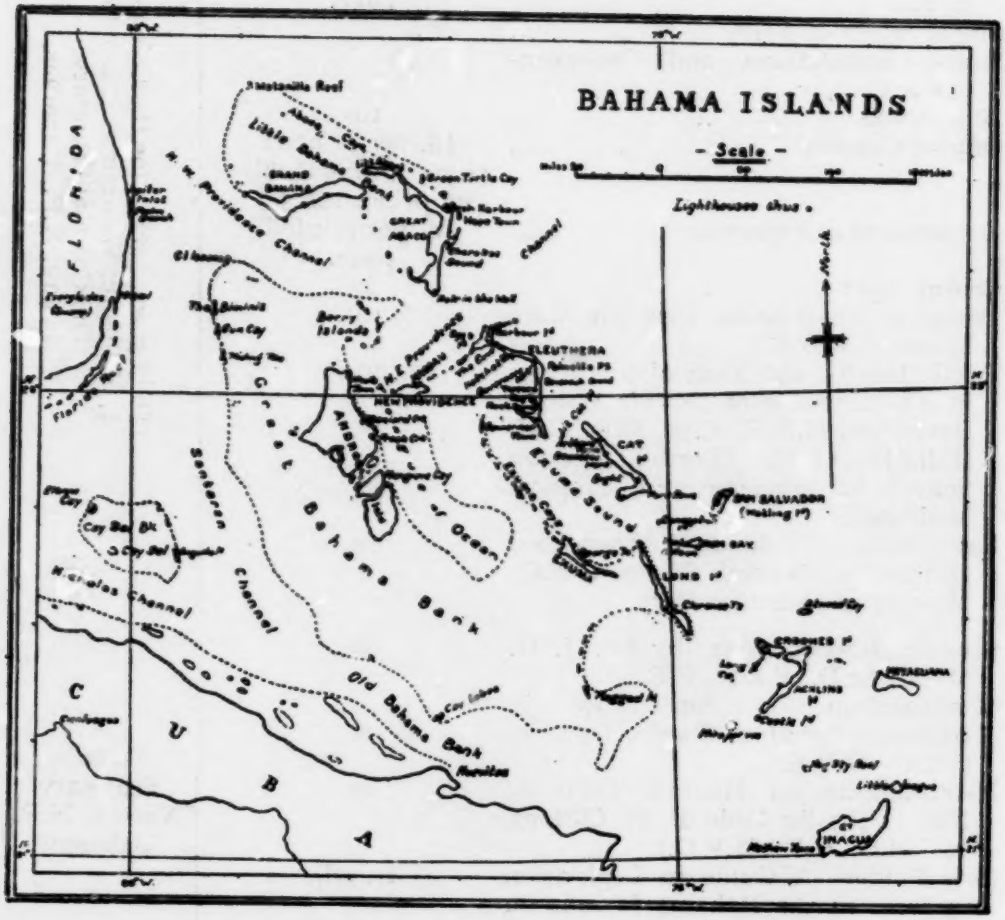
In March, 1937, the International Ocean Yacht Race took place, starting at Miami, Fla., and finishing at Nassau. This is an annual event for a trophy competed for by local and American yachts, and is keenly contested. The race was won by Mr. Robert M. Johnson's *Stormy Weather.*

The United States Coastguard Cutters *Mojave* and *Pandora* accompanied the yachts and offered every facility for promoting the event.

APPENDIX.

Bahamas Publications, etc.

Title.	*Price.*	*Agents for Sale.*
Laws :		The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London. The Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas.
Revised Edition, volumes 1 and 2, Cloth bound.	2 guineas per volume.	
Bound half calf	3 guineas per volume.	
Annual volumes for years subsequent to 1928.	½d. per printed page.	
Single copies of Acts	,, ,,	
Rules, Regulations and Orders-in-Council.	,, ,,	
Blue Books	10s.	
Official Gazette	½d. per printed page. Annual subscription, 12s. 6d.	
Departmental Reports...	½d. per printed page.	
Census, 1931	2s.	
Bahamas Hand Book, 1926 (by Mary Moseley, M.B.E.).	10s.	
Public Health and Medical conditions in New Providence (by Sir Wilfred Beveridge, K.B.E., C.B., M B., C.M. (Edin.) D.P.H. (Camb.) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).	10s.	
Law Report, Volume 1, 1900–1906 (Edited by Kenneth Solomon, K.C., Member of Bahamas Bar).	6s.	
Sand-fly Report, 1932 (by Dr. J. G. Myers, Sc.D., F.Z.S., F.E.S.).	9d.	Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P. Bahamas.
Memorandum on Agriculture in Bahamas (by Hon. Charles Dundas, C.M.G., O.B.E.).	2s.	
Memorandum on Historic Forts of Nassau (by Sir Bede E. H. Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O.).	1s.	
Law Finder—A Guide to Legislation in force in the Bahama Islands on the 1st November, 1934 (by J. H. Jarrett, K.C.).	2s. 6d.	



(13886—48) Wt. 2916—4163 750 1/39 P.St. G.377/7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, JULY, 1927
Report and Proceedings [Colonial No. 136] 2s. (2s. 2d.)

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 143] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Colonial No. 130] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND, FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

PITCAIRN ISLAND
Reports by Mr. J. S. Hall and Duncan Cook, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
[Colonial No. 133] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES
Report of Committee [Cmd. 2334 (1924)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE
Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS
Report of Committee [Cmd. 3319] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
Colonial Agricultural Service List	[Colonial No. 137] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Forest Service List	[Colonial No. 128] 6d. (7d.)
Colonial Legal Service List	[Colonial No. 138] 3d. (4d.)
Colonial Medical Service List	[Colonial No. 139] 2s. 3d. (2s. 5d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List	[Colonial No. 132] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2 : York House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2 : 120, George Street MANCHESTER 1 : 26, York Street
CARDIFF : 1, St. Andrew's Crescent BELFAST : 80, Chichester Street
or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH GUIANA
BRITISH HONDURAS
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
NIGERIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
NYASALAND
PERLIS
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
TRENGGANU
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
CAMEROONS under British Mandate
TOGOLAND under British Mandate

Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices are obtainable from the Sole Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

S.O. Code No. 58-1878

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1901

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

BAHAMAS, 1938

(For Reports for 1936 and 1937 see Nos. 1819 (Price 1s. 3d.) and 1878 (Price 9d.).)

Crown Copyright Reserved

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;
26 York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any bookseller

1939

Price 1s. 0d. net

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE COLONIAL EMPIRE, 1938-39

Statement to accompany the Estimates for Colonial and Middle Eastern Services, 1939 [Cmd. 6023] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)

NUTRITION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Economic Advisory Council. Report of Committee.

1st Report—Part I. [Cmd. 6050] 3s. (3s. 4d.)

1st Report—Part II. Summary of Information regarding Nutrition in the Colonial Empire [Cmd. 6051] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A comprehensive Survey, including Memoranda on the Economic Situation of the individual Dependencies and on the Products of the Colonial Empire

Survey for 1936 [Colonial No. 149] £1 7s. 6d. (£1 8s. 2d.)

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1938, to 31st March, 1939 [Cmd. 6062] 9d. (10d.)

LOCAL LEGISLATURES IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Return showing the composition, etc. [H. of C. 169, 1937/38] 6d. (7d.

EDUCATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

HIGHER EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA

Report of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies [Colonial No. 142] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

THE INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO THE COLONIAL DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A Summary of Legislation as at the end of December, 1936 [Colonial No. 141] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A Survey [Colonial No. 124] 6d. (7d.)

EAST AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, AMANI

Eleventh Annual Report [Colonial No. 167] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, JULY, 1938

Report and Proceedings [Colonial No. 156] 2s. (2s. 2d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2: York House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street
or through any bookseller

Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS FOR 1938

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate and History	2
II.	Government	4
III.	Population	5
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	9
VI.	Natural Resources	10
VII.	Commerce	14
VIII.	Labour	18
IX.	Wages and Cost of Living	19
X.	Education and Welfare Institutions	20
XI.	Communications and Transport	21
XII.	Public Works	24
XIII.	Justice, Police, and Prisons	27
XIV.	Legislation	29
XV.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures	29
XVI.	Public Finance and Taxation	30
XVII.	Miscellaneous	31
	Appendix—Bahamas Publications	34
	Sketch Map	35

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Bahamas are an archipelago of islands, cays and rocks, lying between 20° 50′ and 27° 25′ North latitude and 72° 37′ and 80° 32′ West longitude, and extending from Inagua on the south to Matanilla Reef on the north—from Mayaguana and its adjacent rocks and cays on the east to and including the Cay Sal Bank on the west, and are separated from Florida, to the west, by the Straits of Florida—and from Cuba, to the south by the Old Bahama and Nicholas channels. Extending over an area of 760 miles, the Bahamas comprise nearly 700 islands and over 2,000 cays and rocks. The aggregate land surface of the group is 4,375¼ square miles, which is slightly less than that of Jamaica, the largest of the British West Indian islands.

New Providence, although not one of the larger islands, is the most important, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and is inhabited by more than one-quarter of the total population of the Colony. The island is about 21 miles in length from east to west, and seven miles in breadth from north to south.

The islands are mostly long, narrow and low-lying and, except in the cases of Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama, not well wooded.

There are extensive pine forests on Andros, Grand Bahama, and Abaco, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood is to be found on the last-mentioned island and at Andros.

The ground is very rocky, but there are patches of excellent land containing rich fertile soil, and there are extensive tracts of land in some of the islands which are suitable for pasture.

There are no mountains, and very few hills, but there are several extensive lagoons. The fine white sand studded with powdered pink coral, and the ever changing and wonderful colouring of the sea, makes a picture which is not easily forgotten.

Climate.

The winter climate of the Bahamas is most delightful. Frost is unknown, the average temperature is about 70° Fahrenheit, the rainfall is slight, and cool breezes prevail. The rainy months are May, June, September and October. The total rainfall for 1938 in New Providence was 29·41 inches.

The greatest heat is experienced during July, August and September, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90° F. The islands are never unhealthy and the malaria mosquito is unknown in the Colony.

History.

At the time when the Bahamas were first discovered, that is to say in 1492, they were inhabited by a race of Indians who were removed to Haiti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonize the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. Earlier than that, namely 1578, they were already regarded as part of the British domains. In 1647, a Company of " Eleutherian Adventurers " was formed in London for the purpose of colonizing the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670, yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was appointed by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the virtual rulers of the country. In 1673, one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690, another

was deposed and imprisoned; and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680, the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba. In 1703, a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their nefarious trade. A period of comparative quiet followed. In 1776, however, a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor, but after a few days the place was evacuated. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change; the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Colony, which, between the years 1861 and 1865, became a depot for vessels running the " blockade " imposed against the Confederate States.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The present Constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in the early days, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

" The Eleutherian Adventurers ", who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them a conception of representative Government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The Charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the Constitution, much as it

exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, was created as a separate Council by Royal Letters Patent in 1841.

The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members elected for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence, or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occured in June, 1928, and in May, 1935. No forms of local Government exist.

III.—POPULATION.

The following table shows the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group:—

Island.	*Area in square miles.*	*Population at last Census (1931).*
Abaco and Cays	776	4,233
Acklins	133	1,765
Andros	1,600	7,051
Berry Islands	10	222
Bimini	8	736
Cat Island	160	3,959
Cay Sal and Cay Lobos	1½	20
Crooked Island	76	1,329
Eleuthera	158	6,168
Exuma and Cays	80	3,774
Grand Bahama	430	2,241
Harbour Island	1½	793
Inagua	560	667
Long Island	130	4,515
Long Cay	8	144
Mayaguana	90	518
New Providence	60	19,756
Ragged Island and Cays	4	424
Rum Cay	29	252
San Salvador or Watlings	60	675
Spanish Wells	½	566
	4,375½	59,828

The estimated population for the whole Colony on 31st December, 1938, was 67,720, made up of 31,797 males and 35,923 females.

Births.—There were 2,146 births in the Colony during the year, or 35·8 per 1,000 based on the census figures, 1931.

Deaths.—There were 1,222 deaths in the Colony during the year, or 20·4 per 1,000 based on the census figures, 1931.

Marriages.—There were 562 marriages in the Colony during the year. The marriages were performed by Marriage Officers of the following denominations:—

Anglican	80
Roman Catholic	37
Methodist	52
Baptist	310
Others	83

Infantile Mortality.—There were 255 deaths of children under one year, or 121·2 per 1,000 living births. There were 126 still-births.

Emigration and Immigration.—During the year 12,970 persons left the Colony and 13,080 persons were admitted. Of this number a large proportion were winter visitors who remained for periods varying from two weeks to three months.

Of those remaining in the Colony a number are persons who have become residents whilst others are persons who have been admitted for temporary employment.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Act (Chapter 258) and strict supervision is exercised by the authorities to prevent undesirable immigrants and passengers being admitted into the Colony.

IV.—HEALTH

The climate of the Colony is equable throughout, although the hot season from June to September is enervating as the humidity is high and the maximum elevation is approximately 125 feet above sea level.

The average mean temperature during the winter months is 76 and during the summer months 82.

The humidity ranges from 75 to 85 per cent.

Nassau, the capital, for the most part is supplied with chlorinated pipe-borne water and has water-borne sewage disposal.

Ice from the ice plant, city water and milk (mostly pasteurized) are examined regularly at the Government Laboratory, and a very high bacteriological standard is maintained.

The Health Department employs a Veterinary Surgeon to inspect dairy cattle and animals, and carcasses at the slaughter-houses.

Medical

The Medical and Public Health services are administered by a Health Board, of which the Chief Medical Officer is Chairman.

The medical problems in the Bahamas are chiefly those arising out of poverty and ignorance—syphilis, tuberculosis, pellagra and other manifestations of malnutrition, in that order of importance. Otherwise the Colony is a remarkably healthy one. Malaria has disappeared, typhoid is fast disappearing, hookworm is unknown, diphtheria sporadic, and the infectious diseases are unimportant. These diseases occur chiefly among the wage-earning population.

The Government expended on medical care during 1938 the sum of £18,853 and on sanitation £7,260 or 6·3 per cent. of the Colony's revenue.

The medical needs of the Colony in New Providence are rendered by the Bahamas General Hospital, which has a full-time resident staff of three doctors, a European matron, three European sisters and 49 native nurses.

Student nurses undergo a four-year period of general training which includes six months' midwifery and three months' work in the Infant Welfare Department.

The service of the hospital is furnished largely free of charge. There is an out-patient department, in which 13,626 were treated in 1938, a general hospital which had 3,492 admissions, a lunatic asylum, infirmary, dental clinic, venereal and gynaecological clinic.

There are well-equipped X-ray and bacteriological laboratories.

The total cost per resident patient at the Bahamas General Hospital was 4s. 3d. per day.

The Out Islands are served medically by four Government District Medical Officers, who are stationed at the larger and more important islands, but who tour the other settlements at intervals.

Periodic public health and medical inspections of the Out Islands are carried out by a member of the Medical staff from the hospital in Nassau.

Licensed midwives and unqualified medical practitioners assist in dispensing medical aid.

A prescribed course of one year's duration in first aid, nutrition and hygiene is available for suitable candidates such as clergymen, Commissioners, etc., whose duties ordinarily keep them in the Out Islands.

Throughout the year the Health Department has purchased films on social diseases, sanitation, nutrition, hygiene, etc. These films have been shown and a suitable lecture given to selected audiences.

Leprosy.—There is a leper colony which has 16 inmates, situated in the Pine Barrens, which is approximately 15 miles from the inhabited part of New Providence.

The care and treatment of the patients in the lazaretto is carried out by a Government Medical Officer.

Child Welfare.

(*a*) Midwives are now given one year's training at the Bahamas General Hospital, and then sent back to the various Out Islands.

(*b*) Infant Welfare Clinics are held tri-weekly in New Providence. These are attended by a private practitioner. A full-time specially qualified welfare nurse is employed to supervise these clinics and do house-to-house visiting.

The Infant Welfare Department also distributes to prospective mothers pamphlets on infant care and hygiene.

The last three months of each undergraduate nurse's course (four years) at the Hospital are devoted to Child Welfare work under the guidance of the Welfare Nurse-in-Charge.

(*c*) There is an ante-natal clinic conducted by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity.

(*d*) A small "Good-Will Centre" for orphan girls is supported by public subscription under the management of a trained nurse.

(*e*) The Government conducts a Boys' Industrial School of some 84 boys who are medically cared for by a Government Medical Officer.

Sanitation.

(*a*) The policies of the Health Board are carried out by a Chief Sanitary Inspector who holds a qualification from the Royal Sanitary Institute. There are six sanitary inspectors for New Province, and in the Out Islands there are local Boards of Health with the Island Commissioner acting as Chairman in the absence of the District Medical Officer. There are also three sanitary inspectors working in the Out Islands.

(*b*) Chlorinated city water is examined bacteriologically once a week, and increasing numbers of houses are being connected to the system. The old open wells for supplying public drinking water have been replaced, as far as possible, by the installation of standpipes. Water-borne sewage is disposed of by the "activated sludge" process, and crude sewage is no longer discharged into the harbour to any extent.

(*c*) Both raw and pasteurized milk is sold, but a high standard of quality is required.

(*d*) Meat is inspected by a part-time Veterinarian, and the sale of food in the public market is supervised by a full-time officer.

The Veterinary Surgeon also inspects all dairy cattle once a year and any suffering from tuberculosis or Bang's Disease are condemned and destroyed.

(*e*) The sale of food is permitted only in licensed premises and food-handlers come up bi-annually for medical examination.

The Health Department has continued to take care of street cleaning and garbage collection.

Co-operating with the Board of Pilotage, sand dredged from the harbour of Nassau has been made available to fill in low-lying areas, and a marked improvement in the drainage of such areas in Nassau has been effected thereby.

The general standard of hygiene in New Providence is quite good.

There are no estates, mines or factories in the Colony.

Through the co-operation of the Police Department and the building Inspector, a considerable number of dilapidated buildings in various sections which were breeding places for rats have been condemned and removed.

Mosquito Control.

An active campaign to minimize the breeding of mosquitoes was pursued during the year. A species of Gambusia was found in abundance in inland ponds in the Island.

The Tropical Fish are very hardy and are excellent devourers of mosquito larvae. The fish have been placed in over 600 rain water tanks and private wells, and in conjunction with weekly oiling of the catch basins of storm water drains a marked diminution of mosquitoes (*Culicidae* and *Aedes*) have been effected.

V.—HOUSING.

Wage-earners of the labouring class are found almost only in Nassau. Their housing consists principally of wooden two- and three-roomed structures with separate outside kitchen and pit-latrine, and devoid of other sanitary installations. Water in Nassau is now supplied almost exclusively from public drinking-fountains (maintained from public funds) connected with the City's pure-water supply.

Some of these labourers' houses are owned by the occupants; others are rented, the rate being 4s. to 8s. a week. Such houses are invariably built on separate plots, so that there is no crowding of houses and there are no slum areas.

The most urgent need is the replacement of numerous dwellings occupied by the labouring class which are of such poor construction that they are incapable of withstanding hurricane winds of any great velocity. In an effort to improve on this condition, over 100 houses of special hurricane-proof design were built at public expense in replacement of houses destroyed in the hurricane of September, 1929. The cost of these houses, varying from £45 to £75, was made recoverable by weekly payments to be spread over four years, and it was hoped that the receipts would be available for further construction of houses for the wage-earning class, but the collection of instalments has proved difficult, and the scheme as originally contemplated cannot be developed until a substantial proportion of the capital outlay has been recovered.

No building societies exist in the Colony.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The natural resources of the Colony are marine, agricultural, and forest products. Except for forest exploitation on Abaco Island, production is conducted individually, there being neither factories, plantations, nor mines anywhere in the Colony.

Of the products of the Colony, sponge, crawfish, sisal, tomatoes, shell, salt and timber are exported, other commodities are at the present time produced only for local consumption.

No actual distinction exists between cultivation and other forms of production by persons of European and non-European descent. The former are principally engaged in commerce and the latter mainly in production; but persons of both races may be found engaged in one or the other of these pursuits, and such limited agricultural employment as exists is not restricted entirely to one race.

The following table shows the number of acres of various crops under cultivation, and the quantity of live-stock in the Colony:—

Crops.	*Acres.*	*Live Stock.*	*Number*
Citrus	509	Horses	1,304
Coconuts	944	Horned cattle	1,231
Onions	81	Sheep	13,178
Pineapples	49	Goats	6,198
Sisal	3,204	Swine	5,980
Tomatoes	1,199	Poultry	32,092
Other Products	20,545		
Total	26,531	Total	59,983

Sponge.—The outstanding event of the year in this the major natural resource of commercial value in the Colony has been a sudden and catastrophic mortality which occurred in the last

few weeks of 1938 among the sponges on all the banks in the waters of the Colony. The cause of this mortality has been subject to research by the Sponge Fishery Investigations Department. It is already apparent that the damage is likely to cause a heavy drop in the annual turnover for the next four or five years, and recovery will be very slow.

During past years, depletion of the beds by hurricanes and over-fishing has adversely affected the industry to a serious extent, quite apart from the above-mentioned unprecedented mortality.

During 1936 and annually thereafter for five years, a sum of £5,000 was made available by the Colonial Development Fund, together with an annual contribution of £1,000 from the Bahamas Government, for the establishment and maintenance of a scientific department to make investigations into the biology and life history of the sponge, and to make recommendations for the rehabilitation of the industry.

The Sponge Fishery Investigations Department is carrying out a comprehensive programme of research, hydrography and sea water analysis, the biology of the living sponge, its mode of reproduction and growth rate, the behaviour and length of life of the larvae, and an extensive survey of the fishing-grounds in the waters of the Colony.

The research work is carried out by a scientific staff of three at the department laboratory in Nassau, at a field station at Mastic Cay, Bight of Andros, and on board a research vessel. Advice arising out of the scientific work of the Sponge Fishery Investigations Department is transmitted from time to time to the Agricultural and Marine Products Board.

Certain areas where the evidence of over-fishing and hurricane damage have already been only too clear have been closed to enable their stock to recover. When the grounds have been nursed back to a better state of productivity, it should be possible to maintain them in that condition by a re-adjustment of the size limits and by occasional closures. But this desirable condition has been indefinitely postponed by the mortality.

Acting upon the recommendation of the Sponge Fishery Investigations Department, the Agricultural and Marine Products Board has issued a set of rules relating to the sponge industry under which size limits and a close season are imposed; protected areas are defined; permits to engage in the sponge business and licences to both sponge-vessels and cultivators of sponge are issued by the Board; the sale of sponge is centralized to the Sponge Exchange at Nassau; an exchange inspector is appointed and his duties defined; and the collection of market statistics is provided for. From a study of the statistical returns, evidence will be obtained as to the relative value of the fishery

on the various grounds; and from a year to year comparison of landings useful information regarding questions of over-fishing, effect of the closure of areas, and other points of interest can be derived.

The Sponge Fishery Department has also been engaged on the evolution of methods of sponge cultivation under commercial conditions. Depots have been established at salient points in the Bight of Andros (which has been closed to commercial fishing) and work is proceeding over the whole area, testing the suitability of the various creeks and channels for sponge planting. The experience and knowledge gained, whether of methods or of sites, will be placed at the disposal of newcomers to the field of sponge-planting, and it is hoped to build up a reserve stock of sponge of proved value from which planting enterprises on the area may be supplied at reasonable cost.

The number of sponges under cultivation by private enterprises has already passed the half-million mark, and the few which have been placed on the market have realized a good price. The above mentioned mortality, however, has caused a severe set-back to the planting industry.

Prices on the exchange since October have declined in comparison with those of last year. About 180 vessels have fitted out this season.

The sales of sponges on the Nassau Sponge Exchange for the year 1938 were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Wool and Velvet	41,652	8	10
Grass	13,247	7	6
Reef	4,124	10	3
Yellow and Hard Head	5,244	9	1
Total	64,268	15	8

Salt.—Coarse salt was formerly won in considerable quantities from salt-ponds in several islands. Efforts are now being made to revive the trade and to produce a cleaner grade of salt which will sell more readily than the quality hitherto produced. These efforts have definitely produced the desired results especially at the island of Inagua.

Fisheries.—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but normally only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being little attempt at export.

The export of crawfish under licences was continued during the year and the exports amounted to 1,002,154 lb., valued at £6,369 15s. 10d., royalty collected being £1,037 0s. 6d. The supply of this sea food shows no depletion and the position is being carefully followed by means of inspection tours in order

to avoid any such occurrence. A patrol vessel was employed as usual for the purpose of visiting fishing areas and enforcing regulations governing the industry.

Sisal.—During the year 112 tons were exported at an estimated value of £1,275 as compared with 727 tons valued at £8,477 during the year 1937. There was a decline in this staple as the demand abroad was not very steady.

Agriculture.—The rocky nature of the land and the paucity of the soil in the Bahamas unquestionably present difficulties in the way of peasant farming. Nevertheless, the islands have in the past been highly productive of sub-tropical cultivations, and in years gone by a lively export trade existed. The present unproductive condition is manifestly due less to natural factors than to modern conditions which have attracted the peasants from the land.

On the Out Islands the people have always, on small farms, grown sufficient produce for their own needs. In Nassau, however, it has been necessary to import large quantities of fruit and vegetables.

During the past few years the Government has tried to encourage a greater interest in agriculture. Agricultural Instructors have been placed at various islands and seed distributed free of charge. In an effort to foster agriculture, a Government Produce Exchange which was established in 1936 for the marketing of produce from the Out Islands, has operated quite successfully. Local Farmers' Associations were formed, and it is hoped that the agricultural output will be greatly increased.

It is difficult to assess the number of persons engaged in agriculture. Practically everyone not engaged in commerce cultivates in a small way for his own needs. On the other hand, comparatively few live solely by cultivation of the soil.

Tomatoes.—The principal cultivation at the present time is tomatoes. The Bahamas tomatoes are of the finest quality, and in the past have found ready sale on the New York market, where they can be placed somewhat earlier than Florida produce. The imposition of a higher tariff, coupled with competition from Cuba and Mexico, so severely handicaps Bahamas produce that exportation to New York has now ceased; but exportation to Canada was developed, and the trade has been diverted from New York to Montreal and Halifax.

Citrus.—Down to the early years of the present century, considerable quantities of citrus fruits were exported. The industry then met with keen competition from Florida, and was finally

ruined by infestation by the Blue Grey Fly pest. The fly, however, is now well under control and very successful efforts are now being made to restore the cultivation of citrus. There is every prospect of the production in the near future being more than sufficient to meet local requirements.

Stock and Poultry.—Stock and poultry raising is conducted on a very limited scale for local consumption, but it is hardly sufficient to supply the local demand. Efforts are now being made by the Agricultural Board with a view to improving the local stock.

Export of local produce.—The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years:—

		1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Cascarilla bark ...	lb.	48,944	49,056	31,360	35,616	70,784
	£	1,644	1,466	864	1,064	1,502
Tomatoes, raw ...	m. bushels	112	106	105	76	67
	£	20,444	26,064	27,610	15,561	25,366
Sisal hemp	tons	158	607	1,487	727	112
	£	1,371	3,709	15,007	8,477	1,275
Abaco pine timber	m. feet	1,649	2,861	1,992	3,313	1,303
	£	7,403	14,938	11,455	23,546	8,934
Woods, other	tons	30	226	123	103	135
	£	120	820	477	489	703
Shell, tortoise ...	lb.	6,543	6,290	4,813	3,787	1,063
	£	6,782	4,610	3,042	2,768	604
Shell, conch ...	number	84,567	66,000	56,739	99,062	89,000
	£	343	339	242	453	354
Sponge	... m. lb.	679	745	697	1,074	927
	£	58,250	51,954	54,912	95,350	90,054
Salt	m. bushels	88	15	—	138	133
	£	1,087	193	—	1,584	1,706

VII.—COMMERCE.

The Colony is largely dependent on imported foodstuffs. Approximately 34 per cent. of the total value of imports being expended on food, drink and tobacco, which include mainly, butter, flour, rice, lard and its substitutes, meats, canned, fresh and cured, milk, condensed and evaporated, and refined sugar. The chief countries of supply are United Kingdom, Burma, Canada and the United States of America.

The chief exports of domestic produce are, raw tomatoes 10 per cent., and sponge 63 per cent. of the total value. Tomatoes go almost entirely to Canada, and the principal markets for sponge are, United Kingdom, Holland and United States of America.

The total value of the Colony's trade during the last five years was as follows:—

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	725,480	718,215	967,040	1,213,544	1,138,839
Domestic Exports ...	104,793	112,887	123,541	164,857	148,447
Re-exports	43,822	12,541	15,792	44,253	64,688
Totals (excluding specie)	874,095	843,643	1,106,373	1,422,654	1,351,974

The following tables show the percentage of total imports and domestic exports provided by:—

IMPORTS.

(a) *Empire and foreign countries.*

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
British Empire	48·81	42·44	43·30	41·41	42·32
Foreign countries ...	51·19	57·56	56·70	58·59	57·68

(b) *Principal supplying countries.*

United Kingdom ...	25·06	23·47	24·62	22·36	23·80
Canada	18·55	13·67	13·47	12·64	11·48
Rest of Empire ...	5·40	5·30	5·22	6·41	7·04
United States of America	36·77	43·88	42·92	45·62	44·76
Other foreign countries...	14·22	13·68	13·77	12·97	12·92

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

(a) *Empire and foreign countries.*

British Empire ...	58·31	60·86	52·71	48·83	57·74
Foreign countries ...	41·69	39·14	47·29	51·17	42·26

(b) *Principal countries of destination.*

United Kingdom ...	24·13	22·84	15·92	22·38	28·29
Canada	25·83	28·61	27·37	14·72	24·38
Jamaica	8·09	9·34	8·66	11·18	4·83
Rest of Empire ...	0·27	0·07	0·77	0·56	0·24
United States of America	19·91	20·36	32·23	34·58	23·12
Holland	12·83	6·24	8·33	5·47	9·37
Other foreign countries	8·94	12·54	6·72	11·16	9·77

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Article.	*Unit of Quantity.*	*1937.*		*1938.*		*Principal countries of origin with values in £'000.*
		Quantity.	*Value in £.*	*Quantity.*	*Value in £.*	
Class I.						
Flour	M. bsls.	50	65,950	55	55,484	Canada (40), Australia (9), United Kingdom (6).
Meats, all kinds ...	Tons	629	62,968	575	46,280	United States of America (28), Canada (15), Argentine (1), United Kingdom (2).
Wines, Spirits, etc. ...	—	—	57,474	—	50,683	United Kingdom (25), Jamaica (11), France (5).
Provisions, n.e.e. ...	—	—	25,249	—	26,044	United States of America (20), United Kingdom (3), Canada (2).
Lard and substitutes ...	Tons	450	20,725	547	21,805	United Kingdom (20), Canada (1).
Rice	Tons	1,854	17,358	1,738	18,232	Burma (18).
Class II.						
Lumber	M. ft.	4,677	42,579	4,353	32,650	United States of America (31).
Class III.						
Motor cars, parts and tyres	—	—	62,031	—	26,738	United States of America (12), Canada (13), United Kingdom (1).
Furniture	—	—	54,855	—	35,243	United States of America (30), Canada (1), United Kingdom (3).
Apparel	—	—	51,129	—	42,311	United Kingdom (21), United States of America (17), Hong Kong (1), Canada (1).
Hardware	—	—	45,650	—	46,297	United States of America (36), United Kingdom (7).
Cotton Manufactures ...	—	—	44,979	—	35,895	United Kingdom (17), United States of America (18).
Electrical Apparatus and appliances.	—	—	33,362	—	25,085	United States of America (24), United Kingdom (1).

Principal Domestic Exports

Article.	*Unit of Quantity.*	*1937.*		*1938.*		*Principal countries of destination.*
		Quantity.	*Value in £.*	*Quantity.*	*Value in £.*	
Class I.						
Tomatoes, raw ...	M. bushels	75	15,561	67	25,366	Canada (25).
Class II.						
Sponge	M. lb.	1,074	95,350	927	90,054	United States of America (18), United Kingdom (38), Holland (15), Canada (8), Belgium (3).
Lumber	M. feet	3,313	23,546	1,303	8,934	Jamaica (7), Cuba (2).

Exports of Coin and Notes.

	1934. £	*1935.* £	*1936.* £	*1937.* £	*1938.* £
Bullion and specie—					
Gold	7,865	849	2,735	5,526	2,701
Silver	46,000	36	36	—	500
	£53,865	885	2,771	5,526	3,201

Imports of Coin and Notes.

Bullion and specie—					
Silver	—	—	200	1,658	7,195
Gold	2,819	5,547	—	4,151	800
Bronze	—	—	—	—	75
	£2,819	5,547	200	5,809	8,070

Tourist Traffic.

The Bahama Islands, with Nassau the capital city, have for many years been firmly established in the affections of Americans and Canadians as a winter resort, and with the improved transportation facilities with England it has become, within the past few years, a favourite wintering place for English tourists.

Should the visitor desire an outdoor life there are numerous ways of indulging his sporting or athletic instincts to the fullest extent. The clear and beautiful waters of the Bahamas provide ideal yachting facilities (international races take place in Nassau harbour), excellent fishing and perfect swimming. The ocean bathing is universally declared to be unsurpassed the world over and is the irresistible standard attraction for winter visitors. There are first-class tennis courts available, an excellent golf course, a good race-track for horse-racing situated at Montagu Park, and other sports include riding, bicycling, polo, water-polo, and squash rackets.

The Board has a representative and an office in New York—John C. Kelly, Esq., at the Nassau, Bahamas Information Bureau, 30, Rockefeller Plaza. An office of the Board has been established in London, England, under the care of a London Representative, Lt.-Colonel Norman G. Thwaites, C.B.E., M.V.O., M.C., at the Bahamas Government Travel Bureau, 28, Berkeley Square, W.1. The Board's interests in Canada are under the supervision of a representative established in Montreal, David Crombie, Esq., whose address is as follows:—P.O. Box 355, Place D'Armes, Montreal.

The tourist traffic to Nassau has maintained its high standard. During the year 1938, 57,394 persons visited Nassau, approximately 10,000 of whom stayed for several days, weeks or months.

VIII.—LABOUR.

The principal industries of the Colony are those concerned with agricultural and marine pursuits and those engaged therein are not wage-earners proper and seasonal industries provide what may best be described as casual employment.

During the year the building and allied trades absorbed the available skilled labour and during the early part of the year considerable numbers of unskilled labourers found steady employment.

Towards the end of the year however a pause in building activities caused a decline in the number of persons employed. This number was further increased by the influx of persons from the various Out Islands of the Colony in search of employment. As a result of such condition, measures for unemployment relief

were instituted by the Government and such assistance enabled this temporary condition to be adequately cared for until winter activities again provided employment for such persons.

Major developments on certain islands of the group offer increasing opportunities for employment of general labourers under admirable conditions, and such, as time progresses, will increase the proportion of wage-earners in the Colony.

Minimum wages are paid both male and female labourers engaged in certain industries, and such are determined by an Advisory Board appointed by the Governor under authority of The Minimum Wage Act of 1936.

During the year the provisional appointment of a Labour Officer, under the Colonial Secretary, was made.

The following table shows the approximate number of persons employed in the principal industries, and the rate of wages paid to them:—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Wages paid per diem* *Male.*	*Female.*
				s. d.	*s. d.*
Unskilled	4,500	5,000	9,500	4 0	2 0
Agricultural	250	300	550	2 6	1 6
Sponge and other Fishermen ...	4,000	—	4,000	—	—
Lumber Milling	400	—	400	2 6 to 4 0	—
Skilled (Building)	350	—	350	6 0 to 24 0	—
Mechanics	300	—	300	8 0 to 24 0	—

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No material change in wages took place during the year, and the following are the wages paid to Government employees during a working week of five and one-half days:—

	Per day (Shillings).
Blacksmiths	17
Carpenters	8 to 10
Labourers	4
Masons	6 to 8
Painters	4 to 6
Plumbers	6 to 10
Truck Drivers	6 to 7

Government and private employees usually work 8½ hours a day. Cooks and housemaids receive 10s. to 20s. per week, and work about 10 hours a day. Labourers employed in industries or by private persons receive wages ranging from 2s. to 4s. a day.

The labourer's staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal and sugar, and he spends about 9d. a day for his food. He can obtain lodging for about 4s. a week. He is saved the expense of educating his children or providing medical treatment, as both these are furnished by the Government without cost to him.

Average cost of living for officials.—The cost of living in New Providence is high. The tariff in the first-class hotels varies from £2 per day to £4 per day, inclusive, during the winter season, and in the smaller hotels the tariff during the same period is approximately £2 per day, inclusive. During the period May to November, inclusive, accommodation may be obtained in the smaller hotels for approximately £1 4s. per day. A single man might be able to live in a small hotel or boarding house for £5 a week throughout the year, in which case his total expenses should not exceed £400 a year.

A furnished bungalow could be obtained for about £150 a year, in which case a married couple, without children, should be able to live on about £600 a year. Unfurnished bungalows can be obtained for about £100 a year.

In the Out Islands, except at Harbour Island, Eleuthera, there are no hotels or boarding houses, and suitable bungalows would be difficult to obtain.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Primary Education is compulsory for children from six to fourteen years of age, and is provided at public expense under the direction of the Board of Education. The total amount expended by the Board during 1938 was £21,199 0s. 2d. inclusive of £751 19s. 7d. in connection with the erection of new buildings, giving an average cost for the year of £1 12s. 11d. and £2 8s. 2d. for each pupil on the total roll and in average daily attendance respectively.

The Board maintains 62 schools and grants were paid to 57 others. The total roll was 12,896. In addition to these schools which are directly under the Board, there were 38 denominational schools with a total roll of 2,246 at the end of the year and a number of private schools with nearly 500 pupils. Owing to the widely scattered population, and the unsurmountable difficulties of consolidation, this relatively large number of schools is not entirely adequate. A number of children are out of the reach of any school, and in some localities distance entails a certain amount of hardship in the attendance of young children.

In conformity with the agricultural policy of the Government, prominence is given in all Board schools to instruction in Elementary Agriculture, and to further this end six selected teachers are sent annually to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, U.S.A., for instruction in practical agriculture. Sewing lessons for girls are given in a number of schools, and two centres for woodwork classes and two for domestic science classes for boys and girls respectively are in operation in Nassau.

The Board employed 107 teachers (principal and assistant, including two domestic science and two woodwork teachers, and six teachers from other British West Indian Colonies), and also 24 pupil teachers, 22 sewing teachers, and 247 monitors. In addition there were 57 grant-in-aid teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers within the Colony has proved a great handicap to education, and it was partly with a view to improvement in this direction that a Government High School was established some years ago. Secondary education is otherwise afforded in schools maintained by religious bodies, which are assisted by grants from the Government provided they meet the requirements laid down in the Secondary Education Act. The total school roll at the end of the year was 13,385; 413 being in Secondary Schools.

Welfare Institutions.

An infirmary, and lunatic and leper asylums, the inmates of which are admitted free of charge, are maintained by the Government, and are under the management of the Bahamas General Hospital. Free medical treatment is also afforded to those unable to pay for it, and free rations were issued to 608 paupers during the year 1938.

The Infant Welfare Department of the Bahamas General Hospital and the pre-natal clinic likewise provide free advice and treatment. The Dundas Civic Centre, which receives a Government subsidy, is supplying a long-felt want by training cooks, housemaids, and hotel waiters, and is affording general household training to others not engaged in domestic service.

There are certain charitable organizations in the Colony, but the native population largely provides for sickness and death insurance by membership of one of the many Friendly Societies existing in the Colony. There is no compulsory insurance in effect in the Bahamas. In New Providence there are several recreation grounds where rugby and association football, polo, cricket, and other games are freely indulged in. There are three cinema theatres, two of which give nightly performances.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

During the year 1938 3,017 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 4,307,423, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony. Of this number 620 vessels with a total tonnage of 1,955,496 called at Nassau. Regular monthly services of cargo vessels from England are maintained by the Royal Mail Line. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company has inaugurated a service with this Colony, and during the year 23 calls were made at Nassau by ships of this line, which landed 235 and embarked 200 passengers. This service fulfils a long-felt want for direct

communication with the United Kingdom at a moderate cost, and by comfortable ships which perform the voyage within 14 days. During January to April a weekly passenger service between New York and Nassau is provided by the Cunard White Star Line, and the Clarke Steamship Line maintains a tri-weekly service with Miami, Florida. The Munargo Line gives a fortnightly passenger and freight service from New York, embracing Nassau, Miami and Havana, returning by the same route. The Canadian National Steamship vessels call at Nassau every two weeks *en route* from Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda to Jamaica, calling at Nassau on the return journey every alternate week; in the winter these vessels also call at Boston. A weekly service for carriage of fruit is maintained by the same line during the tomato season. This line is in receipt of a Government subsidy. The only other port at which there is any considerable shipping is Inagua, where 130 vessels of 187,503 tons have entered. Steamers of a Dutch line call at this port to embark stevedores to work cargoes at South American ports. During the tourist season, from November to April numerous large cruise vessels call at Nassau.

A daily air service between Nassau and Miami with planes carrying 20 passengers is maintained by the Pan-American Airways Incorporated during the winter. During the summer the service is performed with 14 and 20 passenger planes, thrice weekly.

Communication with Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats. Regular subsidized services by such vessels are maintained to all islands. A weekly air service between Nassau, Harbour Island and Eleuthera is being maintained during the winter months.

Roads.

All the main roads are surfaced with asphalt and due to the general improvement in recent years motor vehicles have increased to 1,454. The Out Island roads are the usual rock surfaced roads adequate for the rare wheeled traffic. In Eleuthera the road is 70 miles long, and Long Island has a similar road. These roads have materially assisted the agricultural development of these islands.

Post Office.

During 1938 the revenue of the Post Office shows a decrease of £3,206 over the previous year, due chiefly to the large demand in 1937 for the issue of stamps in commemoration of the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI; the decrease in the sale of stamps being £3,091.

There is a direct mail service to Bermuda, Canada and Jamaica every fortnight by the ships of the Canadian National

Steamship Company. The Pan American Airways Incorporated operate a daily Air Mail service between Miami, Florida, and Nassau from the 1st January to the 30th April and a tri-weekly service for the remainder of the year on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In addition to the above service there is a weekly mail service during the winter season from New York by ships of the Cunard White Star Company, and the s.s. New Northland of the Clarke Steamship Company performs a service with Miami, Florida, from 1st January to April. Throughout the year there is a fortnightly service from New York by the Munargo Line Company steamer *Munargo* which continues to Miami, Florida, and Havana, Cuba.

During the summer months cruise ships bring mails from New York and other places.

In addition there is frequent communication with Miami, Florida, by various motor vessels throughout the year.

Interinsular Mail services are performed throughout the islands during the year; weekly with the more important places and less frequently with the more outlying districts.

Telegraphs.

Telegraph communication is effected by wireless service, maintained and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of a central station at Nassau, with 21 stations on the other islands of the Bahamas group.

The Nassau W/T station maintains continuous watch on 500 kc/sec (600 m.) with an alternate working frequency of 438 kc/sec (685 m.), c.w. slightly modulated. From 35 minutes to 45 minutes past each hour a watch is kept on 143 kc/sec (2,100 m.).

From the hour to 10 minutes past each hour 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. a watch is kept on 12,500 kc/sec (24 m.) and at the hour to 10 minutes past, 7.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m., on 8,333 kc/sec (36 m.).

High frequency communications on point-to-point service are maintained continuously with Hialeah, Florida, on 3,334 kc/sec (89·98 m.), 4,260 kc/sec (70 m.) and 5,769 kc/sec (52 m.), and during the winter months January to April, with the same station for stock brokerage service on 5,085 kc/sec (59 m.) and 3,216 kc/sec (93·20 m.).

With Kingston, Jamaica, continuous watch is maintained on 8,135 kc/sec (36·88 m.) and 5,300 kc/sec (56·6 m.).

High frequency transmitters and receivers have also been supplied to all the Out Island W/T stations and operate a fixed service with Nassau and each other on 5,300 kc/sec (56·6 m.),

and in addition the stations at Clarence Town, Long Island, Bimini, Cat Cay and San Salvador are fitted with alternate frequency of 3,125 kc/sec (96 m.).

Overseas Telephone communication is maintained on a frequency of 4,512 kc/sec (66·44 m.) from Nassau connecting through the Hialeah, Florida, telephone terminal to all points in the United States, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Hawaii, the Philippine Islands, Great Britain, Europe and other countries as well as to vessels at sea so equipped. This circuit is maintained between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily with extended hours during the months of the winter season.

All times quoted in this report are Eastern Standard, five hours slow on Greenwich Mean Time.

The Out Island stations have proved of great benefit to the industries and inhabitants of these islands, and are very useful for administrative and police purposes, and the dissemination of storm warnings.

Telephones.

In Nassau there is a manually-operated system owned and operated by the Bahamas Government, consisting of one main exchange with two sub-exchanges, to which 1,116 subscribers are connected.

Of the other islands of the Bahamas group, Eleuthera has some 40 miles of telephone line, Cat Island 30 miles, and Long Island 52 miles of line connecting the principal settlements to the wireless station in question.

The installation of an automatic system in the island of New Providence to replace the existing manual system has proceeded vigorously during the year 1938, and it is anticipated that the new system will be brought in operation about the middle of 1939.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department superintends the construction and maintenance of all public works, which includes:—

Water Works.—Recovery, distribution and administration.

Sewerage.—Collection, disposal and administration.

Lighthouses.—For local Out Islands navigation, the Department built and maintains 33 gas automatic lighthouses and also 38 oil-lights of purely local interest.

Inspection and control of building.—Plans for all private buildings and sanitary arrangements are controlled by the Department.

Maintenance.—Public parks, gardens, including nursery which also sells plants to private individuals, public areas, forts, public buildings, wharfs, sheds, markets, drains, abutments, etc., all Out Island public works, including wharfs, buildings, roads and any improvements required from time to time: construction and upkeep of roads, paths, etc., in New Providence, and also some of the Out Island roads.

The Department carries out the above duties on behalf of the Board of Public Works, which consists of five members appointed by the Governor, and all funds are voted annually by the Legislature. The Department also supervises and carries out work for other Departments when necessary.

The expenditure was £49,879 for the fiscal period 1938, being mainly for maintenance of roads, waterworks, sanitation and general maintenance.

Waterworks and Sewerage Disposal.

Two areas are now in operation—

(1) " Baillou Hills " inaugurated 1927.
(2) " Prospect " inaugurated 1938.

The problem of salinity in drinking water supplies imposes rigid restrictions regarding output from each well and is dependent upon adequate rainfall.

Baillou Hills. Mean Salinity, 1938, 60 grains per gallon.
Prospect. Mean Salinity, 1938, 9 grains per gallon.

The City supplies now fairly stable at 40-45 grains per gallon, approximately 50 per cent. of the consumption is used for sanitation and non-domestic uses, no restrictive legislation is in force.

The consumption for 1938—126,000,000 or roughly 35 gallons *per capita,* all services are metered.

Sewerage.—Most buildings of importance are connected to the sewerage system, the exception being small untaxed buildings or tenements.

Inspection of Buildings.—The Board exercises rigid control of all construction in order that no abnormal or faulty construction may take place to spoil the general appearance of the island. The results are very gratifying. The control of sanitation and plumbers. etc., is enforced to ensure proper work according to modern standards.

Public Buildings.—The existing administrative and public buildings are inadequate for present needs, and will require extensions in the near future.

Electricity.

A public electricity supply was instituted in 1908 and in 1923 an Act was passed constituting an Electricity Board on behalf of whom the Department carries out the duties of a public electricity supply undertaking in the area contained by New Providence and certain closely adjacent islands. The city of Nassau and suburbs as well as outlying settlements of importance are supplied by the Department.

Generation is by diesel power throughout, the generating plant comprising seven sets totalling 2693 kw. individual units ranging in capacity from 200 to 500 kilowatts.

The following are the particulars of the supply:—

High-tension transmission and distribution—6,900 volts, 2,300 volts, 3-phase, 60 cycles.

Low-tension distribution—200/115 volts, 3-phase, 4-wire, 60 cycles.

Constant average frequency is maintained and 60 cycle clocks may be used.

Total kilowatt hours generated 1938—5,337,490.

Total revenue earned 1938—£41,906.

Average price obtained per kilowatt hour sold—2·31 pence.

The following are the tariffs in force:—

	Price per Unit.	*Fixed Charge.*	*Meter Rent.*	*Minimum.*	*Remarks.*
Lighting	5d.	Nil	Nil	4s. per month.	General.
Repayment ...	6d.	Nil	Nil	—	5d. per unit after 720 units are consumed.
Shop exterior ...	3d.	Nil	1s. per month.	—	Exteriors only.
Domestic	2d.	According to Schedule (Floor area).	Nil	—	Subject to minmum of 1 KW heating installed.
Heating only ...	2d.	Nil	Nil	10s. per month.	1 KW and over.
Heating off Peak ...	1d.	Nil	2s. per month.	—	Time switch controlled.
Cooking	½d. 1d.	Nil	Nil	—	Only where Off Peak Keating is in use. May to end Oct. ½d. Nov. to end April 1d.
Storage Cookers	3s. 6d. wk. 500 wt.	Nil	Nil	—	—
Power	4d.	Nil	Nil	10s. per month.	Motors only.

	Price per Unit.	*Fixed Charge.*	*Meter Rent.*	*Minimum.*	*Remarks.*
Power, Large Users	1d.	Maximum demand according to Schedule.	2s. per month.	—	5 H.P. and over.
Industrial (Power and Light).	2d.	Power £4 per H.P. per annum. Lighting 1d. sq. ft. of floor area.	Nil	—	1 H.P. minimum.
Bulk Supply ...	1¾d.	£5 per K.V.A. per annum Maximum demand.	Nil	—	High Tension only.
Air Conditioning ...	½d. 1d.	—	2s. per month.	Nil	May to end October, November to April.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Law.—The Law of the Colony is:—

(*a*) The Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement and subject to the exceptions mentioned in the Declaratory Act (Chapter 7, Statutes, Revised Edition, 1929).

(*b*) Statutes of the Imperial Parliament specifically applied to the Colony by enactment of the Local Legislature.

(*c*) Statutes of the Colony's Legislature.

Courts.—There is a Supreme Court of the Colony which sits in Nassau, is presided over by a Chief Justice, and has the jurisdiction of a High Court of Justice in England. An appeal, in civil matters, lies from the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Supreme Court sits throughout the year as occasion requires, but ordinary Sessions are held quarterly for the disposal of Criminal Informations and of Civil actions, listed for trial by Jury. In 1938 the number of cases listed in the Supreme Court were, Criminal 48, Civil 105.

The principal Magisterial Court of the Colony is that of the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, who is stationed in Nassau, and appeals from his Court lie to the Supreme Court. Additionally, magisterial powers are exercised by the Commissioners in charge of Districts in the Out Islands, and by Justices of the Peace, and appeals from such Courts lie to the Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, and to the Registrar-General, who alternately go on circuit among the Out Islands, to hear such appeals and dispose of cases triable only, in original jurisdiction, by a Circuit Justice. The Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, Commissioners

and, where so empowered, Justices of the Peace, are also responsible for the conduct in Court of preliminary enquiries into indictable offences triable by the Supreme Court.

Payment of fines by instalments is permitted in suitable cases, but the necessity seldom arises. The Penal Code provides for placing offenders on probation, and a Salvation Army officer has been appointed as a Probation Officer and did excellent work during the year 1938.

The following is a table of the persons dealt with in Summary Courts for crimes and offences during the year 1938:—

Imprisoned	215
Whipped (Juveniles)	71
Fined	1,110
Bound over or otherwise disposed of	658
Discharged	294
Committed for Trial in Supreme Court	43

Police.

The Bahamas Police Force is a semi-military body. This Force is armed with, and in possession of Machine Guns, Hotchkiss Guns, and S.M.L.E. Rifles, and is responsible for furnishing Guards and Sentries. Sixteen N.C.Os. and men of the Force comprise a Band.

The men of the Force have been recruited from other West Indian Colonies, but recently most of the recruits have been selected from the Bahama Islands.

The Police Force is also the Fire Brigade for New Providence. It is equipped with five Motor Fire Engines.

The Bahamas Police Force was established in 1864 by an Act of Legislature. The present strength consists of six European officers, a Sergeant-Major and 124 other ranks.

Prisons.

There are official " lock-ups " in all Out Island districts, but all prisoners sentenced to terms exceeding three months are sent to the central prison in Nassau, which has single cell accommodation for 102 male and 16 female prisoners.

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good on the whole, the main diseases occurring amongst the prisoners being pulmonary, venereal, and skin diseases, and constipation.

There is no separate provision for juveniles in the central prison, but this class of male offender is committed to the Industrial School, a reformatory managed by a Visiting Committee, where agriculture and other crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary schooling.

The daily average of prisoners in the Nassau Prison during 1938 was 134.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Acts were passed by the Legislature during the year 1938, in the course of the Legislative Session of 1937-8. The following are the more important:—

The Public Officers Life Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1937 :—This Act, *inter alia*, prescribes the procedure to be adopted in regard to life insurance policies of officers, taken out in compliance with the Public Officers Life Insurance Act (Ch. 12) in the event of an officer leaving the public service of the Colony without pension, for any reason other than on medical grounds before attaining the retiring age.

The Reclamation and Drainage (Amendment) Act, 1937 :—Requires that advances to cover the cost of work under the Reclamation and Drainage Act, 1936, shall be authorised annually by Resolution of the Legislature.

The Lunacy Act, 1937 :—Repeals the Lunacy Act (Ch. 57 of the Revised Statutes, 1929) and in replacement provides primarily for improvement in procedure of adjudication of a person of unsound mind.

The Newspaper Surety Act, 1938 :—Requires that Newspapers before being allowed to operate provide security by bond in the sum of £100 with sureties, or security in such other form as the Licensing Authority shall accept, such security being furnished by the proprietor, publisher or printer of such newspaper.

The Notaries Public Act, 1938 :—Confines the appointment of Notaries Public to Attorneys of the Supreme Court and provides for the ex-officio appointment of the Colonial Secretary and Attorney General as Notaries Public for the purposes and subject to limitations specified in the Act.

The Public Holidays Act, 1938 :—Repeals the Public Holidays Act (Ch. 277 of the Revised Statutes, 1929) which had been frequently amended and effects other changes by variation from the Act repealed.

The Magistrates (Amendment) Act, 1937 :—Removes pre-existing provisions in the Magistrates Act (Ch. 43) whereby in cases of felony where the evidence in the opinion of the Magistrate raised a strong presumption of guilt, bail might be refused. Additionally, right of appeal to the Supreme Court in the event of refusal by a Magistrate to grant such bail is preserved.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

The only bank operating in the Colony, apart from the Post Office Savings Bank, is the Nassau branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. For the year ended 30th November, 1938, it had deposits in the Colony amounting to £979,609.

Post Office Savings Bank.—The Savings Bank shows another increase in deposits, the excess over 1937 being £7,778. During the year ended the 30th June, 1938, there was an increase of 86 in the number of depositors and the balance due to depositors showed an increase of £5,863.

During the year the branch post office at Grant's Town was made a Branch of the Savings Bank.

Currency.

The British Currency Act (Chapter 159) declared British sterling to be the money of account, and requires all accounts to be kept in sterling. £79,400 in local Government currency notes of 4s., 10s., and £1 denominations is in circulation in the Colony, in addition to about £26,000 in British silver coin. United States currency is not legal tender in the Colony but gold and silver certificates are accepted at rates based on the rate of sterling in New York on the day of negotiation. These certificates are in circulation particularly during the winter owing to the presence of American visitors.

The Note Security Fund held by the Commissioners of Currency on 31st December, 1938, was valued at £79,314 14s. 2d. For the same period the Commissioners showed an excess of £2,075 19s. 4d. in receipts over expenditure, which was paid into General Revenue.

The Currency Note Act, 1936, which came into operation on the 1st November, 1936, declares currency notes issued under the Act to be legal tender in this Colony, and that they shall be deemed to be current coin of the Colony.

Under the Proclamation of His Majesty in Council of the 27th October, 1936, silver coins of the United Kingdom ceased to be legal tender in the Colony for payment of any amount exceeding 40s., with effect from the 1st November, 1936.

Weights and Measures.

By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1934–35	277,544	276,961
1935–36	297,568	288,969
1936 (1st April–31st December) ...	246,353	240,440
1937	513,926	419,235
1938	411,764	655,460
	£1,747,155	£1,881,065

The excess of expenditure over revenue for this period was £133,910. The excess of expenditure over revenue is entirely due to the write off to expenditure of £263,346 in connexion with the loan against the Colonial Hotel.

The authorized Public debt on the 31st December, 1938, amounted to £253,000 which sum is comprised of the following loans:—

(*a*) £150,000 raised under the authority of the Hotel Loan Act, 1924.

(*b*) £35,000 raised under the Telephone Loan Act, 1936, and a further £25,000 raised under the Telephone Loan Act, 1937, for the purpose of installing in New Providence an automatic telephone system.

(*c*) £35,000 raised under the Electricity Loan Act, 1937, for constructing and equipping a new electrical power station.

All of these loans have been floated locally by the issue of Debentures bearing interest ranging from 2 per cent. to 5 per cent. per annum.

Provision is made for the redemption of the debentures by annual contributions from the revenue to sinking funds, established for the purpose.

(*d*) £8,000 in respect of a loan from the Colonial Development Fund in connexion with sponge fishery investigations. Issues from the fund are made quarterly and the amount received is £3,600 up to 31st December, 1938.

Investments of surplus funds in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 3 per cent., and amounting at the end of the year 1938 to £379,830 market value, represent the chief liquid assets of the Colony. Other principal assets are represented by loans to two hotels, which at the end of 1938 stood at £355,000 which is secured by mortgages on the hotels.

Apart from real property tax, which yielded £6,401 during 1938, there is no direct taxation. The revenue is mainly derived from the following sources:—

	Estimate 1939. £
Customs	222,560
Port, Wharf and Harbour Dues	40,615
Licences and Internal Revenue	20,935
Fees of Court, etc.	34,745
Post Office Revenue	21,310
Interest	26,478
Electrical Power Receipts	45,200
Telegraphs and Telephones	23,000

In 1936 the Tariff Act of 1931, and subsequent amendments were consolidated and revised in a new Act, which continued the preferences agreed upon under the terms of the Ottawa Agreement, and the provision for the free import of motor-cars for temporary use by visitors. It also imposed a surtax upon certain alcoholic beverages.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Nassau Art Centre.—The Nassau Art Centre which was opened by Mrs. Reginald J. Higgs and Miss Dorothy Thompson of Nassau, in Frederick Street during December, 1938, includes paintings by visiting and local artists.

Agricultural Exhibition.— An Agricultural Exhibition, organized by the Commissioner was held for the second time at Harbour Island in March under the patronage of the Governor. A large number of persons from Nassau visited the Exhibition which was quite a success and stimulated agricultural interest in the District.

Broadcasting.—The broadcasting system which was inaugurated in 1937, has further developed and the original 250-watt transmitter has been replaced by one of a modern type giving an output of 1,000 watts.

The equipment of a new studio with modern apparatus had also been almost completed by the end of the year. Besides the regular listeners, who pay a licence fee of 5s. per annum, the Government has provided eight receivers for community listening in certain of the Out Islands. Five more of these have been authorized and will be fitted early in the New Year.

Crown Lands.—During the year 1938, Crown land rentals totalling £1,555 9s. 9d. were collected.

Visits of His Majesty's ships.—The following ships of His Majesty's North America and West Indies Squadron visited the Colony during the year:—

H.M.S. *York,* 10th to 13th January.
H.M.S. *Dundee,* 25th to 31st January.
H.M.S. *Scarborough,* 17th to 24th June.

Visits of United States ships. The United States coastguard cutters *Mojave* and *Pandora* visited Nassau during March.

Yachting.—The harbour of Nassau lends itself admirably to yachting, and this sport is indulged in to a considerable extent by local and visiting yachtsmen.

In March, 1938, the annual regatta of the Royal Nassau Sailing Club was held, when the cup presented by His late Majesty King George V for Pirate class yachts was won by the Honourable Walter K. Moore, C.B.E., in the *Johanna.*

In March, 1938, the International Ocean Yacht Race took place, starting at Miami, Fla., and finishing at Nassau. This is an annual event for a trophy competed for by local and American yachts, and is keenly contested. The race was won by Mr. Robert M. Johnson's *Stormy Weather.*

The United States coastguard cutters *Mojave* and *Pandora* accompanied the yachts and offered every facility for promoting the event.

Honours.—The following honours were conferred on the King's Birthday:—

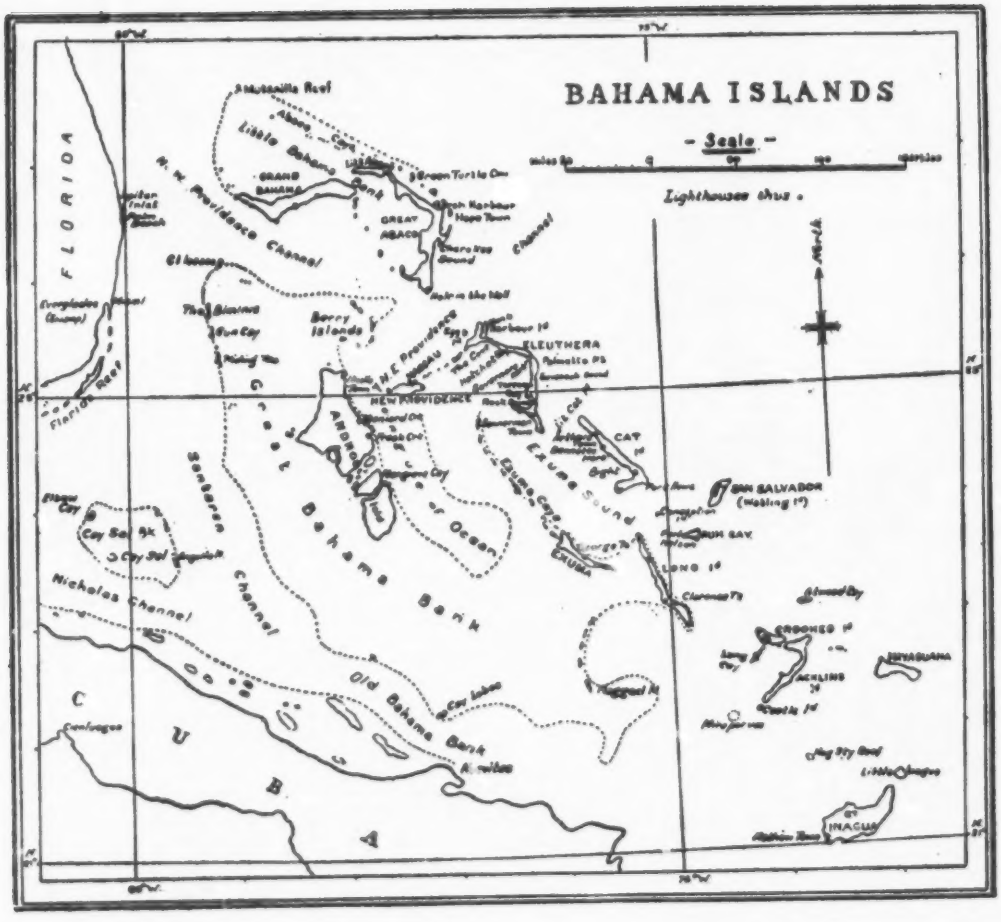
His Excellency the Governor, The Honourable Charles C. F. Dundas, C.M.G., O.B.E., was created a K.C.M.G. Mr. J. Herbert Peet, Postmaster, received the O.B.E. and Miss Sybil Burnside, Clerk Grade II Secretariat, the M.B.E.

In January Mr. A. K. Cole, Comptroller of Customs, received the O.B.E. in the list of New Year's Honours.

APPENDIX.

Bahamas Publications, etc.

Title.	*Price.*	*Agents for Sale.*
Laws :		The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London. The Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas.
Revised Edition, volumes 1 and 2, Cloth bound.	2 guineas per volume.	
Bound half calf	3 guineas per volume.	
Annual volumes for years subsequent to 1928.	½d. per printed page.	
Single copies of Acts	,, ,,	
Rules, Regulations and Orders-in-Council.	,, ,,	
Blue Books	10s.	
Official Gazette	½d. per printed page. Annual subscription, 12s. 6d.	
Departmental Reports...	½d. per printed page.	
Census, 1931	2s.	
Bahamas Hand Book, 1926 (by Mary Moseley, M.B.E.).	10s.	
Public Health and Medical conditions in New Providence (by Sir Wilfred Beveridge, K.B.E., C.B., M.B., C.M. (Edin.) D.P.H. (Camb.) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).	10s.	
Law Report, Volume 1, 1900–1906 (Edited by Kenneth Solomon, K.C., Member of Bahamas Bar).	6s.	
Sand-fly Report, 1932 (by Dr. J. G. Myers, Sc.D., F.Z.S., F.E.S.).	9d.	Colonial Secretary, Nassau, N.P Bahamas.
Memorandum on Agriculture in Bahamas (by Hon. Sir Charles Dundas, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.).	2s.	
Memorandum on Historic Forts of Nassau (by Sir Bede E. H. Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O.).	1s.	
Law Finder—A Guide to Legislation in force in the Bahama Islands on the 1st November, 1937 (by J. H. Jarrett, K.C.).	2s. 6d.	



(18199—48) Wt. 1658—4369 750 8/39 P. St. G. 377/7.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

RHODESIA-NYASALAND ROYAL COMMISSION
Report [Cmd. 5949] 7s. 6d. (7s. 11d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE WEST INDIES
Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Cmd. 6070] 3s. 6d. (3s. 10d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES
Report of Committee [Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE
Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS
Report of Committee [Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

COLONIAL STUDENTS
Report of the Colonial Students Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1938 [Colonial No. 161] 9d. (10d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
Colonial Agricultural Service List	[Colonial No. 157] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Audit Service List	[Colonial No. 162] 4d. (5d.)
Colonial Forest Service List	[Colonial No. 163] 6d. (7d.)
Colonial Legal Service List	[Colonial No. 158] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Medical Service List	[Colonial No. 159] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List	[Colonial No. 160] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2 : York House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2 : 120, George Street MANCHESTER 1 : 26, York Street
CARDIFF : 1, St. Andrew's Crescent BELFAST : 80, Chichester Street
or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

ADEN
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH GUIANA
BRITISH HONDURAS
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
NIGERIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
NYASALAND
PERLIS
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
TRENGGANU
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
CAMEROONS under British Mandate
TOGOLAND under British Mandate

Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices are obtainable from the Sale Offices of

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

S.O. Code No. 58-1922